

F)ENT COOPERATION TREA)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTIFICATION CONCERNING
AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS(PCT Rule 62 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 417)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 21 February 2001 (21.02.01)	To: Commissioner US Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as International Preliminary Examining Authority
International application No. PCT/US99/13245	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 June 1999 (10.06.99)
Applicant THE GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY et al	

The International Bureau hereby informs the International Preliminary Examining Authority that no amendments under Article 19 have been received by the International Bureau (Administrative Instructions, Section 417).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Olivia TEFY Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38
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FENT COOPERATION TREAS

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 21 February 2001 (21.02.01)	To: Commissioner US Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/US99/13245	Applicant's or agent's file reference 184470
International filing date (day/month/year) 10 June 1999 (10.06.99)	Priority date (day/month/year)
Applicant SAVICKI, Alan, F., Sr.	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

11 December 2000 (11.12.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Olivia TEFY Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 25 OCT 2001

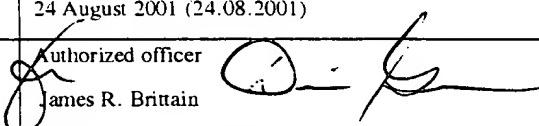
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

WIPO PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 184470	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/13245	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 June 1999 (10.06.1999)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): A44B 19/16 and US Cl.: 24/30.5R		
Applicant THE GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
<input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of <u>0</u> sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report
II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority
III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention
V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited
VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application
VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 11 December 2000 (11.12.2000)	Date of completion of this report 24 August 2001 (24.08.2001)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer  James R. Brittain Telephone No. 703-308-1113

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/13245

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed. the description:

pages 1-33 as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____ the claims:

pages 34-42, as originally filed

pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19pages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____ the drawings:

pages 1-18, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____ the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.
PCT/US99/13245

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	YES
	Claims <u>Please See Continuation Sheet</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-19, 21-23, 26, 30-41, 44, 48-58, 60-62, and 65 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Herrington, Jr. et al. (US 5,161,286). Herrington, Jr. et al. (figure 7) teaches an end stop 31 with a cooperating protrusion 31a for engagement with a recess 32a in the slider 32. The cooperating detents can be on both sides (col. 7, lines 25-41) and define cooperating jaws upon the slider 32 which engage protrusions upon the end stop 31.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 24, 25, 29, 42, 43, 47, 63, and 64 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Herrington, Jr. et al. (US 5,161,286) in view of Richardson et al. (US 5,301,394). Herrington, Jr. et al. (figure 7) teaches an end stop 31 with a cooperating protrusion 31a for engagement with a recess 32a in the slider 32. The cooperating detents can be on both sides (col. 7, lines 25-41) and define cooperating jaws upon the slider 32 which engage protrusions upon the end stop 31. The difference is that it doesn't show the jaws of the slider engaging the edges of the slot at the top of the fastener. However, Richardson et al. (figures 1-4) teaches the positioning of the jaws 21b, 22b of the slider so as to engage the edges of the slot at the top of the fastener so as to better resist opening of the fastener. It would have been obvious to modify the fastener of Herrington, Jr. et al. so that the jaws of the slider engage the edges of the slot at the top of the fastener in view of Richardson teaching positioning of the jaws 21b, 22b of the slider so as to engage the edges of the slot at the top of the fastener so as to better resist opening of the fastener.

Claims 20 and 59 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Herrington, Jr. et al. (US 5,161,286) in view of Stolmeier (US 5,871,281). Herrington, Jr. et al. (figure 7) teaches an end stop 31 with a cooperating protrusion 31a for engagement with a recess 32a in the slider 32. The cooperating detents can be on both sides (col. 7, lines 25-41) and define cooperating jaws upon the slider 32 which engage protrusions upon the end stop 31. The difference is that it doesn't show the traditional arrow-head configuration of interengaging elements. However, Stolmeier et al. (figure 4) teaches that the traditional arrow-head configuration of interengaging elements is well known for providing a good fastening function. It would have been obvious to modify the fastener of Herrington, Jr. et al. so that the traditional arrow-head configuration is used for the interengaging elements in view of Stolmeier suggesting such structure as providing a good fastener.

Claims 6, 7, 27, 28, 45, 46, 66, and 67 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a third jaw located at a second end of the slider.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/13245

Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

V.1. Reasoned Statements:

The opinion as to Novelty was positive (Yes) with respect to claims 3,4,6-8,10-20,24,25,27-29,42,43,45-47,59,63,64,66,67
The opinion as to Novelty was negative (No) with respect to claims 1,2,5,9-19,21-23,26,30-41,44,48-58,60-62,65
The opinion as to Inventive Step was positive (Yes) with respect to claims 6,7,27,28,45,46,66,67
The opinion as to Inventive Step was negative(No) with respect to claims 1-5,8-26,29-44,47-65
The opinion as to Industrial Applicability was positive (YES) with respect to claims 1-67
The opinion as to Industrial Applicability was negative(NO) with respect to claims NONE

PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION OF
THE GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY et al.DATE
June 10, 1999SOCKET OR REFERENCE NUMBER
184470ENTITLED
CLOSURE DEVICE

Certification under 37 CFR 1.10 (if applicable)

EL190829621US
"Express Mail" mailing numberJune 10, 1999
Date of Deposit

I hereby certify that this application is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Becky Williams

Typed or printed name of person making deposit

Becky Williams

Signature of person making deposit

To the United States Receiving Office (RO/US):

Accompanying this transmittal letter is the above-identified international application, including a completed Request Form (PCT/RO/101). Please process the application according to the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

The following requests are made of the RO/US:

1. [X] PREPARATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS -

Please prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the United States origin priority documents identified in Box VI of the Request form (37 CFR 1.451).

To cover the cost of copy preparation and certification (37 CFR 1.19(a)(3) and (b)(1)),

[X] a (check)(money order) in the amount of \$2,545.00 is attached to this transmittal letter.

[] the RO/US is hereby authorized to charge the following deposit account no.: 12-1216

The appropriate Search fee for the above-named Authority is indicated on the Fee Calculation Sheet (PCT/RO Annex).

2. [X] SUPPLEMENTAL SEARCH FEES (ONLY WHEN ISA/US CONDUCTS THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH.) - Please charge any Supplemental Search fees that may be required by the United States International Searching Authority (ISA/US) to deposit account no.: 12-1216

I understand that this authorization is subject to my oral confirmation thereof in each instance and that it in no way limits my right to submit a protest against payment of the Supplemental Search fees, but is merely an administrative aid to assure that the ISA/US may timely complete the Search Report.

NOTE: SUPPLEMENTAL SEARCH FEES FOR ISA/EP ARE PAYABLE DIRECTLY TO THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

3. [X] DISCLOSURE INFORMATION - In order to assist in screening the accompanying International application for purposes of determining whether a license for foreign transmittal should and could be granted, the following information is supplied:

A. [X] There is no prior filed application relating to this invention.

B. [] There is a prior application*, serial number filed which contains subject matter that is

1. [] substantially identical to that of the accompanying International application.

2. [] less than that of the accompanying International application. The additional subject matter of the International application appears on page , lines

3. [] more than that of the accompanying International application.

4. [X] REQUEST FOR FOREIGN TRANSMITTAL LICENSE - According to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 184 and 37 CFR 5.11, a license to transmit the accompanying International application to foreign agencies or international authorities is hereby requested.

*Priority is not claimed, unless all necessary information is listed in Box VI of the Request Form (PCT/RO/101).

SIGNER IS THE

 APPLICANT COMMON REPRESENTATIVE A

(ATTORNEY)(AGENT)

REG. NO. 33,589

NAME OF SIGNER (typed)

John M. Augustyn

John M. Augustyn

SIGNATURE

PCT
REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

International Application No. _____

International Filing Date _____

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) 184470**Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION**

CLOSURE DEVICE

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and Address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

THE GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY

1221 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612 This person is also inventor.Telephone No.
(510) 271-7000Facsimile No.
(510) 271-1652

Teleprinter No.

State (that is, country) of nationality:

US

State (that is, country) of residence:

US

This person is applicant all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and Address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

SAVICKI, Alan F., Sr.
577 Beaconsfield Avenue
Naperville, Illinois 60565

This person is:

- applicant only
- applicant and inventor
- inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

US

State (that is, country) of residence:

US

This person is applicant all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

 Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.**Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE**

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of agent common representative the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

Name and Address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

AUGUSTYN, John M.
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
US

Telephone No.
(312) 616-5600Facsimile No.
(312) 616-5700

Teleprinter No.

 Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

- AP ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SZ Swaziland, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
- EA Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT
- EP European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- OA OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (*if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line*)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland..... |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikstan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HR Croatia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN India | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia | |

Check-boxes reserved for designating States (for the purposes of a national patent) which have become a party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

- South Africa
-
-
-

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (*Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.*)

Supplemental Box*If the Supplemental Box is not used, this sheet need not be included in the request.*

1. If, in any of the boxes, the space is insufficient to furnish all the information; in such case write "Continuation of Box No. ..." (indicate the number of the Box) and furnish the information in the same manner as required according to the options of the Box in which the space was insufficient, in particular:

- (i) if more than two persons are involved as applicants and/or inventors and no "continuation sheet" is available: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. III" and indicate for each additional person the same type of information as required in Box No. III. The country of the address indicated in this box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below;
- (ii) if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the indication "the States indicated in the Supplemental Box" is checked: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the applicant(s) involved and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is applicant;
- (iii) if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the inventor or the inventor/applicant is not inventor for the purposes of all designated States or for the purposes of the United States of America: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the inventor(s) and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is inventor;
- (iv) if, in addition to the agent(s) indicated in Box No. IV, there are further agents: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. IV" and indicate for each further agent the same type of information as required in Box No. IV;
- (v) if, in Box No. V, the name of any State (or OAPI) is accompanied by the indication "patent of addition," or "certificate of addition," or, in, in Box No. V, the name of the United States of America is accompanied by an indication "continuation" or "continuation-in-part": in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. V" and the name of each State (or OAPI), and after the name of each such State (or OAPI), the number of the parent title or parent application and the date of grant of the parent title or filing of the parent application;
- (vi) if, in Box No. VI, there are more than three earlier applications whose priority is claimed: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI" and indicate for each additional earlier application the same type of information as required in Box No. VI;
- (vii) if, in Box No. VI, the earlier application is an APIPO application: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI", specify the number of the item corresponding to that earlier application and indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed.

2. If, with regard to the precautionary designation statement contained in Box No. V, the applicant wishes to exclude any State(s) from the scope of that statement: in such case, write "Designation(s) excluded from precautionary designation statement" and indicate the name or two-letter code of each State so excluded.

3. If the applicant claims, in respect of any designated Office, the benefits of provisions of the national law concerning non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty: in such case, write "Statement concerning non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty" and furnish that statement below.

Continuation of Box No. IV:

SHEPPARD, Berton Scott
MUSKAL, James B.
SCHLEMMER, Dennis R.
COONS, Gordon R.
ROSENQUIST, John E.
KOZAK, John W.
OSLAKOVIC, Charles S.
PHELPS, Mark E.
HARTMANN, H. Michael
GAGALA, Bruce M.
MOTTIER, Charles H.
KILYK, John, Jr.
GREEN, Robert F.
CONKLIN, John B.
ZALEWA, James D.
BELZ, John M.
HESTERBERG, Brett A.

WYAND, Jeffrey A.
KORNICZKY, Paul J.
RUSCHAU, Pamela J.
PETERSEN, Steven P.
GRIFFITH, Christopher T.
MUELLER, Wesley O.
JAY, Jeremy M.
BURGAN, Jeffrey B.
THOMPSON, Eley O.
JOY, Mark
HOOVER, Allen E.
AIRAN, David M.
TOBIAS, Michael H.
PILLAI, Xavier
CHANG, Y. Kurt
BAYS, Gregory C.

LARCHER, Carol
MILLER, Thomas A.
SKLAR, Steven H.
HUNT, Gregory A.
HEFNER, M. Daniel
MATTHIAS, Brent E.
JEWIK, Patrick R.
BELUSH, Thomas A.
JAROSIK, Gary R.
OSTROFF, Joseph S.
MAKEEVER, Jeffery J.
HASAN, Salim A.
SCHODIN, David J.
AHERN, Paul L.
ANDERSON, Theodore W.
SMITH, Noel I.

all of
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
US
(312) 616-5600 Telephone
(312) 616-5700 Fax

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM Further priority claims indicated in the Supplemental Box.

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country	regional application:/* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1)				
item (2)				
item (3)				

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (*only if the earlier application was filed with the Office for which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office*) identified above as item(s):

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, it is mandatory to indicate in the Supplemental Box at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)). See Supplemental Box.

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Box No. VIII CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains the following number of sheets:

request	:	4
description (excluding sequence listing part)	:	33
claims	:	9
abstract	:	1
drawings	:	18
sequence listing part of description	:	_____
total number of sheets:		65

This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

1. fee calculation sheet
2. separate signed power of attorney
3. copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any
4. statement explaining lack of signature
5. priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):
6. translation of international application into (language):
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Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract:

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Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

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Agent for the Applicant(s)

By:

John M. Augustyn

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1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:	2. Drawings:	
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:	<input type="checkbox"/> received:	
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FEE CALCULATION SHEET

Annex to the Request

International Application No.

Applicant's or agent's
file reference 184470

Date stamp of the receiving Office

Applicant
THE GLAD PRODUCTS COMPANY et al.

CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES

1. TRANSMITTAL FEE

\$240.00 T

2. SEARCH FEE

\$450.00 S

International Search to be carried out by ISA/US

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Add amounts entered at b₁ and b₂ and enter total at B \$805.00 B

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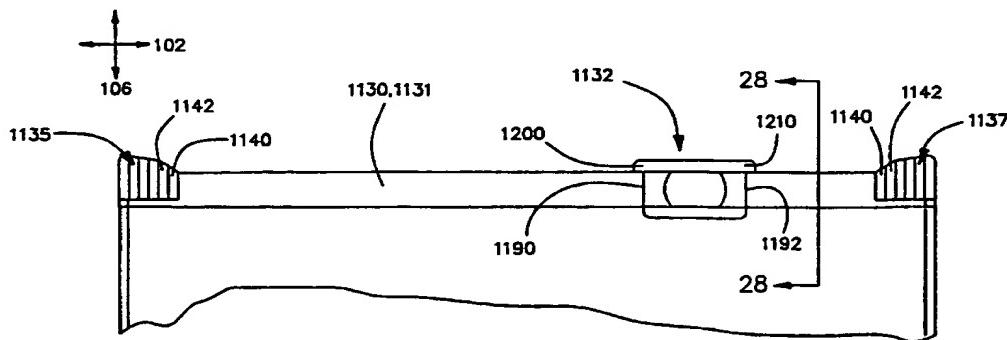
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(54) Title: CLOSURE DEVICE



(57) Abstract: The closure device (121) includes a first fastening strip (130), a second fastening strip (131), and a slider (132) adapted to be slidably disposed on the fastening strips. The slider facilitates the occlusion of the fastening strips (130, 131) when moved towards a first end. A first end stop (1135) is located at the first end. The slider (132) includes a housing having a first jaw (1200) for engaging the first end stop (1135) when the slider is moved to the first end of the fastening strips. The end stop (1135) and the first jaw (1200) prevent removal of the slider (132) from the first end of the fastening strips (130, 131) in a longitudinal X axis (102).

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CLOSURE DEVICEFIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to closure devices and, more particularly, to a slider, interlocking fastening strips, and a method of assembly. The inventive closure device and method may be employed in traditional fastener areas, and is particularly well suited for
10 fastening flexible storage containers, including plastic bags.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The use of closure devices for fastening storage
15 containers, including plastic bags, is generally well known. Furthermore, the manufacture of closure devices made of plastic materials is generally known to those skilled in the art, as demonstrated by the numerous patents in this area.

20 A particularly well-known use for closure devices is in connection with flexible storage containers, such as plastic bags. In some instances, the closure device and the associated container are formed from thermoplastic
25 materials, and the closure device and the side walls of the container are integrally formed by extrusion as a single piece. Alternatively, the closure device and side walls of the container may be formed as separate pieces and then

connected by heat sealing or any other suitable connecting process. In either event, such closure devices are particularly useful in providing a closure means for retaining matter within the bag.

5

Conventional closure devices typically utilize mating fastening strips or closure elements which are used to selectively seal the bag. With such closure devices, however, it is often difficult to determine whether the 10 fastening strips are fully occluded. This problem is particularly acute when the strips are relatively narrow. Accordingly, when such fastening strips are employed, there exists a reasonable likelihood that the closure device is at least partially open.

15

Such fastening strips are also particularly difficult to handle by individuals with limited manual dexterity. Thus, in order to assist these individuals and for ease of use by individuals with normal dexterity, the prior art has 20 also provided sliders for use in opening and closing the fastening strips, as disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,199,845, 5,007,142, 5,007,143, 5,010,627, 5,020,194, 5,070,583, 5,283,932, 5,301,394, 5,426,830, 5,431,760, 5,442,838, and 5,448,808.

25

During assembly of closure devices utilizing sliders, the sliders are often mounted onto fastening strips by moving the slider over the fastening strips in the vertical

Z axis. Specifically, if the longitudinal axis of the fastening strips and slider is the X axis, the width is the transverse Y axis and the height is the vertical Z axis, the slider is attached to the fastening strips by moving 5 the slider over the fastening strips in the vertical Z axis. In the past, sliders attached in the vertical Z axis have utilized folding design with the hinge along the X axis such as the sliders in U.S. Patents 5,010,627, 5,067,208, 5,070,583, and 5,448,808.

10

Other sliders have used multiple parts which are assembled together such as the sliders in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,007,142, 5,283,932 and 5,426,830.

15

Another method of installing a slider is shown in U.S. Patent 5,431,760.

20

It would be desirable to have a continuous process for attaching a slider to the end of the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis. Such a device would reduce the manufacturing costs of closure devices utilizing sliders in addition to providing an effective and reliable means of attaching sliders to the fastening strips.

25

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, a general object of the present invention is to provide a slider which overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art.

A more specific object of the present invention is to provide a slider that may be attached to fastening strips in the horizontal X axis.

5

A further object of the present invention is to provide a slider that may be attached to the end of the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis.

10 Another object of the present invention is to provide a slider that once attached prevents itself from being removed from fastening strips thereafter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The inventive closure device is intended for use with a storage container which includes a pair of complementary sheets or opposing flexible side walls, such as a plastic bag. The closure device includes interlocking fastening strips disposed along respective edge portions of the
20 opposing side walls, and a slider slidably disposed on the interlocking fastening strips for facilitating the occlusion and deocclusion of the fastening strips when moved towards first and second ends thereof. In accordance with the present invention, a method is
25 provided for facilitating the attachment of the slider onto the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis. In addition, the slider and fastening strips engage to prevent removal of the slider from the fastening strips in the

horizontal X axis. Additionally, the slider includes offsets which provide resistance against the removal of the slider from the fastening strips in the vertical Z axis.

5 These and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more readily apparent upon reading the following detailed description of exemplified embodiments and upon reference to the accompanying drawings herein.

10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a container according to the present invention in the form of a plastic bag;

15 Fig. 2 is a top view of the container in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a partial cross-sectional view of the fastening strips taken along line 3-3 in Fig. 2;

20 Fig. 4 is another embodiment of attaching the fastening strips to the side walls of the container;

Fig. 5 is a top view of the slider in Fig. 2;

25 Fig. 6 is a bottom view of the slider in Fig. 2;

Fig. 7 is a front view of the slider in Fig. 2;

Fig. 8 is a rear view of the slider in Fig. 2;

Fig. 9 is a right side view of the slider in Fig. 2;

5 Fig. 10 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 10-
10 in Fig. 2;

Fig. 11 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 11-
11 in Fig. 2;

10

Fig. 12 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 12-
12 in Fig. 2;

15

Fig. 13 is a right side view of the slider in Fig. 2
and a fragmentary side view of the container in Fig. 2;

20

Fig. 14 is a top view of the slider and the fastening
strips and illustrates their respective positions to one
another as the fastening strips are positioned onto the
slider;

25

Fig. 15 is a top view of the slider and the fastening
strips and illustrates their respective positions to one
another as the fastening strips are positioned onto the
slider;

Fig. 16 is a top view of the slider and the fastening
strips and illustrates their respective positions to one

another as the fastening strips are positioned onto the slider;

Fig. 16A is a cross-sectional view taken along line
5 16A-16A in Fig. 16;

Fig. 17 is a top view of the slider and the fastening strips and illustrates their respective positions to one another as the fastening strips are positioned onto the
10 slider;

Fig. 17A is a cross-sectional view taken along line
17A-17A in Fig. 17;

15 Fig. 18 is a top view of the slider and the fastening strips and illustrates their respective positions to one another as the fastening strips are positioned onto the slider;

20 Fig. 18A is a cross-sectional view taken along line
18A-18A in Fig. 18;

Fig. 19 is a perspective view of a system used to attach sliders onto containers in the horizontal X axis;

25

Fig. 20 is a side view of another embodiment of a system used to attach sliders onto containers in the horizontal X axis;

Fig. 21 is a top view of the system in Fig. 20;

5 Fig. 22 is a side view of another embodiment of the slider and a side view of another embodiment of the fastening strips;

Fig. 23 is a top view of the slider and fastening strips in Fig. 22;

10

Fig. 24 is an enlarged partial cross-sectional view taken along line 24-24 in Fig. 22;

15 Fig. 25 is a side view of the slider engaged with an end stop of the fastening strips in Fig. 22;

Fig. 26 is a top view of the slider engaged with the end stop of the fastening strips in Fig. 22;

20

Fig. 27 is a top view of the slider and another embodiment of the fastening strips;

25

Fig. 28 is a rear view of another embodiment of the slider and a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the fastening strips; and

Fig. 29 is a rear view of another embodiment of the slider and a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the fastening strips.

5 While the present invention will be described and disclosed in connection with certain embodiments and procedures, the intent is not to limit the present invention to these embodiments and procedures. On the contrary, the intent is to cover all such alternatives, 10 modifications, and equivalents that fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

15 Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate a container in the form of a plastic bag 120 having a sealable closure device 121. The bag 120 includes side walls 122, 123 joined at seams 125, 126 to form a compartment sealable by means of the closure device 121. The closure device 121 comprises first and 20 second fastening strips 130, 131 and a slider 132.

The fastening strips 130, 131 and the slider 132 have a longitudinal X axis 102 and a transverse Y axis 104 which is perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis 102. 25 Also, the fastening strips 130, 131 have a vertical Z axis 106 which is perpendicular to the longitudinal X axis 102 and which is perpendicular to the transverse Y axis 104.

In use, the slider 132 of the present invention facilitates the occlusion and deocclusion of the interlocking fastening strips 130, 131 when moved in the appropriate direction along the longitudinal X axis 102 of 5 the fastening strips 130, 131. In particular, the slider 132 facilitates the occlusion of the interlocking fastening strips 130, 131 when moved towards a first end 110 thereof, and facilitates the deocclusion of the interlocking fastening strips 130, 131 when moved towards 10 a second end 112 thereof. When the slider 132 is moved in an occlusion direction, as indicated by reference numeral 114 in Figs. 1 and 2, closure of the fastening strips 130, 131 occurs. Conversely, when the slider 132 is moved in a deocclusion direction, as indicated by reference numeral 15 116, separation of the fastening strips 130, 131 occurs.

In keeping with a general aspect of the present invention and as will be described in greater detail below, the interlocking fastening strips 130, 131 of the present 20 invention may be of virtually any type or form including, for example: (1) U-channel fastening strips as best shown herein at Figs. 3 and 4; (2) "arrowhead-type" fastening strips, as shown herein at Fig. 28; and/or (3) "profile" fastening strips, as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,664,299 25 and as shown herein at Fig. 29. All of the above-identified patents and applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

An illustrative example of the type of closure device that may be used with the present invention is shown in Fig. 3. The fastening strips include a first fastening strip 130 with a first closure element 136 and a second fastening strip 131 with a second closure element 134. The first closure element 136 engages the second closure element 134. The first fastening strip 130 may include an upper flange 163 disposed at the upper end of the first fastening strip 130 and a lower flange 167 and an offset 169, each disposed at the lower end of the first fastening strip 130. The offset 169 is at angle of approximately 60° to the lower flange 167. Likewise, the second fastening strip 131 may include an upper flange 153 disposed at the upper end of the second fastening strip 131 and a lower flange 157 and an offset 159, each disposed at the lower end of the second fastening strip 131. The offset 159 is at angle of approximately 60° to the lower flange 157. The side walls 122, 123 of the plastic bag 120 may be attached to the offsets 159, 169 of their respective fastening strips 130, 131 by conventional manufacturing techniques.

As shown in Fig. 4, the side walls 622, 623 of the bag may also be attached to the outside surfaces of their respective fastening strips 630, 631, where the outside surfaces comprise the lower flanges 657, 667 and the base portions 638, 648.

The second closure element 134 includes a base portion 138 having a pair of spaced-apart parallelly disposed webs

140, 141, extending from the base portion 138. The webs 140, 141 include hook closure portions 142, 144 extending from the webs 140, 141 respectively, and facing towards each other. The hook closure portions 142, 144 include 5 guide surfaces 146, 147 which serve to guide the hook closure portions 142, 144 for occluding with the hook closure portions 152, 154 of the first closure element 136.

The first closure element 136 includes a base portion 10 148 including a pair of spaced-apart, parallelly disposed webs 150, 151 extending from the base portion 148. The webs 150, 151 include hook closure portions 152, 154 extending from the webs 150, 151 respectively and facing away from each other. The hook closure portions 152, 154 15 include guide surfaces 145, 155, which generally serve to guide the hook closure portions 152, 154 for occlusion with the hook closure portions 142, 144 of the second closure element 134. The guide surfaces 145, 155 may also have a rounded crown surface. In addition, the hook closure 20 portions 144, 154 may be designed so that the hook closure portions 144, 154 adjacent the interior of the container provide a greater resistance to opening the closure device 121.

25 The second fastening strip 131 may or may not include a color enhancement member 135 which is described in U.S. Patent 4,829,641 and which is incorporated herein by reference.

Referring to Figs. 5-9, the slider 132 includes a housing 160 having a top portion 170, a first side portion 174, and a second side portion 176. The top portion 170 provides a separator 172 having a first end 190 and a second end 192 where the first end 190 is wider than the second end 192. The separator 172 is triangular in shape as shown in Fig. 6.

10 The top portion 170 of the slider merges into a first side portion 174 and a second side portion 176. As viewed in Fig. 7, the first side portion 174 merges into the first front shoulder 240. Likewise, the second side portion 176 merges into the second front shoulder 242. The front shoulders 240, 242 extend inwardly in the transverse Y axis 104 thereby forming a front slot 270 of substantially uniform width as seen in Figs. 5 and 6. The front shoulders 240, 242 provide radial upper surfaces or concave surfaces 246, 248 to maintain proper orientation of the

15 fastening strips 130, 131 within the slider 132.

20 Similarly, as viewed in Fig. 8, the first side portion 174 merges into the first rear shoulder 260. Also, the second side portion 176 merges into the second rear shoulder 262. The rear shoulders 260, 262 angle inwardly in the transverse Y axis 104 thus forming a rear slot 280 of substantially uniform width. The rear shoulders 260, 262 also provide radial upper surfaces or concave surfaces

266, 268 to maintain proper orientation of the fastening strips 130, 131 within the slider 132.

The first side portion 174 has a first grip 196.

5 Likewise, the second side portion 176 has a second grip 198. The first grip 196 and the second grip 198 extend laterally along the outer surfaces of the side portions 174, 176 and provide inwardly protruding radial gripping surfaces 206, 208 as viewed in Figs. 5 and 6. The radial surfaces 206, 208 are designed to correspond to the contour of a person's fingertips and facilitate grasping the slider 132 during occlusion or deocclusion of the fastening strips 130, 131.

15 The slider also provides a flexible occlusion member 210 to force the fastening strips 130, 131 together thus effectuating occlusion of the fastening strips 130, 131 when the slider 132 is moved in the occlusion direction 114. The flexible occlusion member 210 includes a pair of 20 flexible arms 214, 216. The two flexible arms 214, 216 angle inwardly from their respective side portions 174, 176 and project toward the front of the slider 132 as most easily seen in Figs. 5 and 6.

25 In accordance with a principal aspect of the present invention, a slider 132 is provided for attaching the slider 132 to the fastening strips 130, 131 in the horizontal X axis 102 while preventing the slider 132 from

being removed from the fastening strips 130, 131 in the horizontal X axis 102 and in the vertical Z axis 106 thereafter.

5 Figs. 10-12 illustrate the fastening strips 130, 131 at different locations along the separator 172 of the slider 132. Fig. 10 depicts the fastening strips 130, 131 at a location near the second end 192 (the narrow end) of the separator 172. The separator 172 is located between
10 the flanges 153, 163 of the fastening strips 130, 131. At this location, the upper webs 140, 150 and the lower webs 141, 151 are occluded. Fig. 11 illustrates the fastening strips 130, 131 at a location along the separator 172. The width of the separator 172 at this location forces the
15 fastening strips 130, 131 apart in the transverse Y axis 104 and the upper webs 140, 150 of the fastening strips 130, 131 are deoccluded. Fig. 12 shows the fastening strips 130, 131 near the first end 190 (the wide end) of the separator 172. At this position, the width of the
20 separator 172 deoccludes both the upper webs 140, 141 and the lower webs 150, 151 of the fastening strips 130, 131. The flanges 153, 163 of the fastening strips 130, 131 are the only separator 172 engaging surfaces of the fastening strips 130, 131. Consequently, the slider 132 need not
25 force itself between the webs 140, 141, 150, 151 of the fastening strips 130, 131.

As an aspect of the present invention, the shoulders 240, 242, 260, 262 prevent removal of the slider 132 from the fastening strips 130, 131 in the vertical Z axis 106 after the slider 132 has been attached to the fastening strips 130, 131. Moreover, the shoulders 240, 242, 260, 262 of the slider 132 provide upper radial or concave surfaces 246, 248, 266, 268 which engage the lower flanges 157, 167 of the fastening strips 130, 131 to retain the proper orientation of the fastening strips 130, 131 within the slider 132. In the event removal of the slider 132 in the vertical Z axis 106 is attempted, the shoulders 240, 242, 260, 262 will provide resistance against removal of the slider 132. The shoulders 240, 242, 260, 262 retain the slider 132 on the fastening strips 130, 131 by resisting vertical Z axis 106 movement of the fastening strips 130, 131 through the slots 270, 280. Referring to Fig. 10, if the slider 132 was pulled upward in the Z axis 106, the offset 159 engages the offset 169 to prevent the fastening strips from entering the slots 270, 280. In addition, the lower flanges 157, 167 engage the upper radial or concave surfaces 246, 248, 266, 268 to prevent the fastening strips from entering the slots 270, 280. As a result, the slider 132 may only be removed from the fastening strips 130, 131 in the vertical Z axis 106 by either tearing through the fastening strips 130, 131 or breaking and/or by deforming the shoulders 240, 242, 260, 262 of the slider 132.

Fig. 13 illustrates the respective vertical positions of the slider 132 and container 120 immediately prior to attaching the slider 132 onto the fastening strips 130, 131. The container 120 provides a seam 125 at the end of 5 the fastening strips 130, 131. At the seam 125, the fastening strips 130, 131 are melted together which effectively occludes the fastening strips 130, 131. During attachment of the slider onto the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis 102, the separator 172 of the slider 132 10 extends below the top of the fastening strips 130, 131 a distance 290. Consequently, the seam 125 of the fastening strips has an opening at least a minimum distance 290 from the top of the fastening strips 130, 131 to permit insertion of the separator 172 between the fastening strips 15 130, 131 during attachment of the slider 132 onto the fastening strips 130, 131 in the horizontal X axis 102.

Figs. 14-18 sequentially illustrate the attachment of the slider 132 onto the fastening strips 130, 131 in the 20 horizontal X axis 102. Fig. 14 depicts occluded fastening strips 130, 131 and a slider 132 having a flexible occlusion member 210 in a relaxed position. The occluded fastening strips 130, 131 are positioned between the first side portion 174 and the second side portion 176 25 immediately above the rear slot 280. Referring to Fig. 15, the fastening strips 130, 131 are moved in the horizontal X axis 102 toward the slider 132. The fastening strips 130, 131 engage the legs 214, 216 of the flexible occlusion

member 210 and deflect the legs 214, 216 outwardly in the transverse Y axis 104 toward their respective side portions 174, 176 thus permitting passage of the seam 125 and fastening strips 130, 131. The seam 125 has protrusions 5 291, 292 which are created during the thermal cutting of the seam 125.

As shown in Figs. 16, upon further movement of the fastening strips 130, 131 toward the slider 132 in the 10 horizontal X axis 102, the seam 125 and the fastening strips 130, 131 project through the legs 214, 216 of the flexible occlusion member 210. The legs 214, 216 move toward each other after the seam 125 passes through the legs 214, 216 of the flexible occlusion member 210. The 15 second end 192 of the separator 172 is positioned against the seam 125 of the fastening strips 130, 131 and is properly aligned to fit between the flanges 153, 163 of the fastening strips 130, 131 as seen in Fig. 16A.

20 As an aspect of the present invention, the flexible occlusion member 210 allows the slider 132 to accommodate fastening strips of different widths and/or varying width. Specifically, the flexible occlusion member can flex to accommodate fastening strips of different widths and/or 25 varying widths, but can also exert sufficient force to occlude the fastening strips.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the present invention may be embodied in a variety of configurations. The resistance which the flexible occlusion member provides during attachment of the slider 5 onto the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis may be affected by varying the dimensions and/or material composition of the slider design.

In addition, by properly selecting the slider 10 material, the flexible occlusion member 210 can be relied upon to self adjust with time to the width of the fastening strips. Most plastics will "take a set" (self-adjust with time) to an external stress. Furthermore, due to manufacturing tolerances, the width of the fastening strips 15 may vary along the length, and in addition the width of the slider may vary from one slider to another slider. As an example, if the fastening strips are wide, then the occlusion member 210 will self-adjust or take a set to the wide fastening strips and thereby allow the slider to maintain a low slide force. As another example, if the slider is narrow or tight fitting, then the occlusion member 210 will self-adjust or take a set to the narrow or tight fitting slider and thereby allow the slider to maintain a low slide force. As a further example, the 20 occlusion member 210 will also self-adjust or take a set to narrow fastening strips and/or a wide slider. If the plastic material did not take a set, then wide fastening strips or a tight fitting slider would have a high slide 25

force. Proper selection of material will allow the slider to self adjust to the width of the fastening strips soon after installation and prior to the expected delivery to the consumer.

5

As seen in Fig. 17, further movement of the fastening strips 130, 131 in the horizontal Z axis 102 forces the separator 172 of the slider 132 between the flanges 153, 163 of the fastening strips 130, 131. Fig. 17A shows the 10 middle of separator 172 positioned between the fastening strips 130, 131 near the seam 125. In accordance with one feature of the invention, Figs. 17A and 18A demonstrate that the fastening strips 130, 131 will have a leak proof seal when the slider 132 is in the end position.

15

The leak proof seal is created even though the separator 172 extends between flanges 153, 163 of the fastening strips 130, 131. Specifically, the fastening strips 130, 131 are effected not only by the forces acting 20 upon them by the separator 172 at that location but are also by the position of the fastening strips 130, 131 at locations before and after that location. For example, with respect to the position of the fastening strips 130, 131 in Figs. 17A and 18A, the webs 140, 141, 150, 151 are 25 effected by the seam 125 at the end of the fastening strips 130, 131. The seam 125 prevents deocclsuion of the fastening strips by the separator 172.

When the separator 172 is positioned at the locations shown in Figs. 17 and 18 (17A and 18A), the webs 140, 141, 150, 151 of the fastening strips 130, 131 would usually be deoccluded as shown in Figs. 11-12. When the slider 132 moves to the locations shown in Figs. 15-17, the webs 140, 141, 150, 151 are already occluded and the separating action of the separator 172 is not able to overcome the occlusion effect of the seam 125. Consequently, the fastening strips 130, 131 remain occluded through the length of the fastening strips and establish a leak proof seal when fully occluded.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that a number of different methods may be used to attach sliders to fastening strips in the horizontal X axis. These methods may include manually inserting fastening strips through sliders. Because manual insertion is cumbersome and inefficient from an economic and production standpoint, automated insertion of the fastening strips through the sliders is desirable.

Fig. 19 illustrates an automated rotary system 300 that effectively inserts fastening strips 130, 131 through sliders 132 in the horizontal X axis 102. The rotary system 300 includes a first drum 310 and a second drum 320 which rotate about a single axis. The first drum 310 has a first end 314 and a second end 316 and rotates in a clockwise direction 304 at a first radial speed as viewed

in Fig. 19. The perimeter of the first drum 310 provides holes 318 to which a controllable vacuum is connected. The vacuum holes 318 provide a means for securing the containers 120 to and releasing the containers 120 from the 5 perimeter of the first drum 310 during production. The containers 120 are positioned onto the first drum 310 such that the fastening strips 130, 131 of the containers 120 are disposed along the first end 314 of the first drum 310.

10 The second drum 320 has a first end 324 and a second end 326 and rotates at a second radial speed also in a clockwise direction 304 as viewed in Fig. 19. The second radial speed is less than the first radial speed. Accordingly, the first drum 310 rotates faster than the 15 second drum 320. The second drum 320 includes a number of axially extending channels 326. Disposed within each channel 326 is a slider retaining cartridge 328.

 In operation, a container 120 is placed on the first 20 drum 310 at position 330 or an earlier position. The vacuum of the first drum 310 is used to attach the container 120 to the surface of the first drum. The containers 120 rotate as the first drum 310 rotates and the containers achieve various positions 330, 332, 334, 336, 25 338 as shown in Fig. 19. The cartridges 328 of the second drum 320 receive sliders 132 at the second end 326 of the second drum 320 at position 340 or an earlier position. The cartridges 328 and sliders 132 rotate as the second

drum 320 rotates and the cartridges 328 achieve various positions 340, 342, 344, 346, 348 as shown in Fig. 19. The cartridges 328 with the sliders 132 move to the first end 324 of the second drum 320 and achieve various positions 5 340, 342, 344, 346 as shown in Fig. 19. Prior to position 346, the sliders extend beyond the second drum 320 and into the path of the containers 120 on the first drum 310.

The containers 120 attached to the first drum 310 are 10 traveling at a greater radial speed than the sliders 132 and cartridges 328 on the second drum 320. Consequently, each set of fastening strips 130, 131 are inserted within a slider 132 in the horizontal X axis 102 as the fastening strips 130, 131 pass a cartridge 328 and slider 132 as 15 shown in position 346. After the fastening strips 130, 131 are inserted within the slider 132, the slider 132 is disengaged from the cartridge 328 as shown in position 348. The container 120 with the slider 132 then rotates on the first drum 310 to position 346 or a later position and the 20 vacuum retaining the container 120 to the first drum 310 is momentarily turned off to release the container 120 with the slider 132. The vacuum is subsequently turned on to secure another container 120 to the surface of the first drum 310 to repeat the process.

Another embodiment of an automated production system that attaches fastening strips 130, 131 to sliders 132 in the horizontal X axis 102 is illustrated in Figs. 20 and

21. This conveyor system 400 may include any number of conveyors 440, 460 and slider feeders 470. However, for purposes of clarity and convenience, the description will be limited to an upper conveyor 440 and a lower conveyor
5 460. The conveyor system 400 illustrated in Figs. 20 and 21 includes a drum 410, an upper conveyor 440, a lower conveyor 440 and a slider feeder 470.

The drum 410 rotates in a clockwise direction 404 as
10 viewed in Fig. 21 and supplies containers 120 to the upper conveyor 440 and lower conveyor 460. The perimeter of the drum 410 provides holes 441 to which a controllable vacuum is connected. The vacuum holes 441 provide a means for securing containers 120 to and releasing containers 120
15 from the perimeter of the drum 410 during production.

The conveyors 440, 460 also provide holes 442 to which a controllable vacuum is connected. The vacuum holes 442 provide a means for securing containers 120 to and
20 releasing containers 120 from the conveyors 440, 460 during production. The containers 120 are positioned onto the conveyors 440, 460 by the drum 410 such that the fastening strips 130, 131 are located on the inside edge of its respective conveyor. The conveyors 440, 460 move in
25 direction 462 and the containers 120 travel from the first end 464 of the conveyors to the second end 466 of the conveyors.

Slider feeders 470 such as vibrating drum feeders are provided to supply sliders 132 through a channel 476 to the slider holding mechanism 480. The slider holding mechanism 480 is located at the inside edge of each conveyor. As the 5 container 120 with the fastening strips 130, 131 travels along the conveyor 440, 460 and reaches the slider holding mechanism 480, the conveyor 440, 460 moves the fastening strips 130, 131 through the slider 132 in the horizontal X axis 102. After the slider 132 has been inserted on the 10 fastening strips, the slider 132 is released from slider holding mechanism 480. The container 120 with the slider 132 then travels to the second end 466 of the conveyor 440, 460 until the vacuum retaining the container 120 to the conveyor 440, 460 is momentarily turned off to release the 15 container with the slider.

The lower conveyor 460 operates in a similar fashion. The purpose of using upper and lower conveyors 440, 460 is to create space 482 between the containers 120. As the 20 drum 410 rotates, the containers 120 are placed on the conveyors 440, 460 in an alternating fashion. For example, a first container 120 is placed on conveyor 440, a second container 120 is placed on conveyor 460, a third container 120 is placed on conveyor 440, a fourth container 120 is 25 placed on a conveyor 440 and this alternating sequence continues. Thus, the alternating sequence creates the space 482 between the containers on the conveyors 440, 460.

The present invention also prevents removal of the slider from the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis 102 once the slider has been attached to the fastening strips. Figs. 22-27 illustrate a slider 1132 having a first and second set of retaining jaws 1200, 1210. The first set of retaining jaws 1200 are provided at the first end 1190 of the slider 1132. The second set of retaining jaws 1210 are provided at the second end 1192 of the slider 1132. As most easily seen in Figs. 23-24, the retaining jaws 1200, 1210 extend outward from the top of the slider 1132 and angle inwardly in the transverse Y axis 104 to form a first upper slot 1270 and a second upper slot 1272. When the slider 1132 is attached to the fastening strips 1130, 1131, the retaining jaws 1200, 1210 are positioned above the top of the fastening strips 1130, 1131 as seen in Figs. 22 and 24.

Figs. 22-23 illustrate first and second crimped end stops 1135, 1137 provided at each end of the fastening strips 1130, 1131. The end stops 1135, 1137 include detents 1140 and protrusions 1142 for engagement with the retaining jaws 1200, 1210. The crimped end stops 1135, 1137 also extend above the top of the fastening strips 1130, 1131 to correspond with the vertical position of the retaining jaws 1200, 1210. Once the slider 1132 is moved a sufficient distance along the fastening strips 1130, 1131 in the horizontal X axis 102, the respective retaining jaws

1200, 1210 engages the corresponding crimped end stop 1135, 1137.

For example, if the slider 1132 is continually moved
5 in the deocclusion direction 116, the second set of retaining jaws 1210 will eventually engage detents 1140 and protrusions 1142 on the crimped end stop 1137 as shown in Figs. 25-26. Specifically, the upper slot 1272 has a width 1280 which is less than the width 1282 of the protrusions 10 1142 on the end stop 1137. In addition, the width 1280 of the upper slot is equal to or less than the width 1284 of the detents 1140. As the jaws 1210 engage the end stop 1137, the jaws 1210 engage the detents 1140. As the jaws 15 1210 move forward, the jaws engage the protrusions 1142 and are stopped by the protrusions 1142. The width 1280 of the slot is less than the width 1282 of the protrusions 1142. In addition, the jaws 1210 are not able to deflect to increase the width 1280 of the slot. Thus, the retaining jaws 1210 will resist further movement of the slider 1132 20 in the horizontal X axis 102 in the deocclusion direction 116. As a result, the slider 1132 may only be removed from the fastening strips 1130, 1131 in the horizontal X axis 102 by either tearing through the end stops or by breaking 25 and/or deforming the retaining jaws 1200, 1210 of the slider 1132.

Fig. 27 illustrates another embodiment of end stops 2135, 2137 that may be used with the retaining jaws 2200,

2210 similar to the embodiment shown in Figs. 22-26. However, the wedge end stops 2135, 2137 of Fig. 27 angle outwardly at the respective ends of the fastening strips 2130, 2131 thereby increasing the width 2284 of the end stop. The retaining jaws 2200, 2210 also utilize the increase in the width 2284 of the end stops 2135, 2137 to engage the retaining jaws 2200, 2210 as well as the protrusions 2142 provided along the outer surface of the wedge stops 2135, 2137. The width 2284 of the wedge end stops 2135, 2137 increases to a width greater than the width 2280 of the upper slots 2270, 2272. Once the retaining jaws 2200, 2210 engage the end stops 2135, 2137, the width 2284 of the end stops and the width 2282 of the protrusions 2142 prevent further horizontal movement of the slider 2132 in the horizontal X axis 102.

In another embodiment, the slider may have a single jaw on the end of the slider to engage the end stop. Since the jaw will not deflect, the slider will stop when the jaw engages the protrusion and/or the increasing width of the end stop. Furthermore, in an additional embodiment, the slider may have a single jaw on each end of the slider.

Figs. 28-29 illustrate interlocking fastening strips 25 of different configurations and the corresponding slider design. As shown in Fig. 28, the interlocking fastening strips 3130, 3131 may alternatively comprise "arrowhead-type" closure elements which are used with a slider 3132.

Additionally, the interlocking fastening strips 4130, 4131 may comprise "profile" closure elements which are used with a slider 4132, as shown in Fig. 29. These closure 5 elements are described in U.S. Patent 5,664,299.

Although several interlocking fastening strip embodiments have been specifically described and illustrated herein, it will be readily appreciated by those 10 skilled in the art that other kinds, types, or forms of fastening strips may alternatively be used without departing from the scope or spirit of the present invention.

15 The interlocking fastening strips of the present invention may be manufactured by extrusion through a die. In addition, the fastening strips may be manufactured to have approximately uniform cross-sections. This not only simplifies the manufacturing of a closure device, but also 20 contributes to the physical flexibility of the closure device.

Generally, the interlocking fastening strips of the present invention may be formed from any suitable 25 thermoplastic material including, for example, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, or the like, or from a combination thereof. Thus, resins or mixtures of resins such as high density polyethylene, medium density

polyethylene, and low density polyethylene may be employed to prepare the interlocking fastening strips of the present invention. In most instances, the fastening strips are made from low density polyethylene. The selection of the appropriate thermoplastic material, however, is related to the particular design of the fastening strips, the Young's Modulus of the thermoplastic material, and the desired elasticity and flexibility of the strips.

When the fastening strips of the present invention are used in a sealable bag, the fastening strips and the films that form the body of the bag may be conveniently manufactured from heat sealable material. In this way, the bag may be economically formed by using an aforementioned thermoplastic material and by heat sealing the fastening strips to the bag. In most instances, the bag is made from a mixture of high pressure, low density polyethylene and linear, low density polyethylene.

The fastening strips of the present invention may be manufactured by extrusion or other known methods. For example, the closure device may be manufactured as individual fastening strips for later attachment to the bag or may be manufactured integrally with the bag. In addition, the fastening strips may be manufactured with or without flange portions on one or both of the fastening strips depending upon the intended use of the closure device or expected additional manufacturing operations.

Generally, the closure device of the present invention can be manufactured in a variety of forms to suit the intended use. In practicing the present invention, the 5 closure device may be integrally formed on the opposing side walls of the container or bag, or connected to the container by the use of any of many known methods. For example, a thermoelectric device may be applied to a film in contact with the flange portion of the fastening strips 10 or the thermoelectric device may be applied to a film in contact with the base portion of fastening strips having no flange portion, to cause a transfer of heat through the film to produce melting at the interface of the film and a flange portion or base portion of the fastening strips.

15 Suitable thermoelectric devices include heated rotary discs, traveling heater bands, resistance-heated slide wires, and the like. The connection between the film and the fastening strips may also be established by the use of hot melt adhesives, hot jets of air to the interface, 20 ultrasonic heating, or other known methods. The bonding of the fastening strips to the film stock may be carried out either before or after the film is U-folded to form the bag. In any event, such bonding is done prior to side sealing the bag at the edges by conventional thermal 25 cutting. In addition, the first and second fastening strips may be positioned on opposite sides of the film. Such an embodiment would be suited for wrapping an object or a collection of objects such as wires. The first and

second fastening strips should usually be positioned on the film in a generally parallel relationship with respect to each other, although this will depend on the intended use.

- 5 The slider may be multiple parts and snapped together. In addition, the slider may be made from multiple parts and fused or welded together. The slider may also be a one piece construction. The slider can be colored, opaque, translucent or transparent. The slider may be injection
10 molded or made by any other method. The slider may be molded from any suitable plastic material, such as, nylon, polypropylene, polystyrene, acetal, toughened acetal, polyketone, polybutylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, polycarbonate or ABS (acrylonitrile-
15 butadiene-styrene).

In summary, the present invention affords a closure device with interlocking fastening strips, a slider which facilitates the occlusion and deocclusion of the fastening strips, and a method which facilitates attachment of the slider onto the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis. In addition, the closure device prevents the removal of the slider from the fastening strips in the horizontal X axis and in the vertical Z axis.

25

From the foregoing it will be understood that modifications and variations may be effectuated to the disclosed structures - particularly in light of the

foregoing teachings - without departing from the scope or spirit of the present invention. As such, no limitation with respect to the specific embodiments described and illustrated herein is intended or should be inferred.

- 5 Indeed, the following claims are intended to cover all modifications and variations that fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention. In addition, all references and copending applications cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A closure device comprising:
 - a first fastening strip;
 - 5 a second fastening strip;
 - a slider adapted to be slidably disposed on said fastening strips and facilitating the occlusion of said fastening strips when moved towards a first end thereof and facilitating the deocclusion of said fastening strips
 - 10 when moved towards a second end thereof, said fastening strips and said slider having a longitudinal X axis and a transverse Y axis, said transverse Y axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said fastening strips and said slider having a vertical Z axis, said
 - 15 vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said transverse Y axis, a first end stop at said first end, said slider comprising a housing having a first jaw for engaging said first end stop when said slider is moved to
 - 20 said first end of said fastening strips and said first jaw thereby preventing removal of said slider from said first end of said fastening strips in said longitudinal X axis.
 2. The invention as in claim 1 wherein said first jaw is located at a first end of the slider.
 3. The invention as in claim 1 wherein said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.
 - 30 4. The invention as in claim 3 wherein said first jaw is located at the first end of the slider and said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.
 - 35 5. The invention as in claim 2 wherein a second jaw is located at the first end of the slider.

6. The invention as in claim 2 wherein a third jaw is located at a second end of the slider.

7. The invention as in claim 5 wherein a third jaw 5 and a fourth jaw are located at a second end of the slider.

8. The invention as in claim 4 wherein the first end stop extends above the fastening strips.

10

9. the invention as in claim 1 wherein the first end stop has a first surface which extends outwardly.

15

10. The invention as in claim 5 wherein the first end stop has a first surface which extends outwardly.

20

11. The invention as in claim 10 wherein said first jaw and said second jaw define a first slot, said first slot has a first width, said first end stop has a second width, said second width is greater than said first width.

12. The invention as in claim 11 wherein said first surface is a protrusion, said second width includes said protrusion.

25

13. The invention as in claim 11 wherein said first surface is a planar surface, said second width includes said planar surface.

30

14. The invention as in claim 13 wherein said planar surface includes a protrusion, said second width includes said protrusion.

35

15. The invention as in claim 9 wherein said first surface is a protrusion, said first jaw engages said protrusion.

16. The invention as in claim 9 wherein said first surface is a planar surface, said first jaw engages said planar surface.

5 17. The invention as in claim 16 wherein said first surface includes a protrusion, said first jaw engages said protrusion.

10 18. The invention as in claim 1, wherein said first jaw is inwardly biased for engaging said first end stop.

15 19. The invention as in claim 1, wherein said fastening strips comprise U-channel closure type fastening strips.

20 20. The invention as in claim 1, wherein said fastening strips comprise arrowhead type fastening strips.

21. The invention as in claim 1, wherein said fastening strips comprise profile type fastening strips.

22. A slider adapted to be slidably disposed on a first and second fastening strip wherein a first end stop is provided at a first end of said fastening strips, said 25 slider facilitating the occlusion of said fastening strips when moved towards said first end thereof and facilitating the deocclusion of said fastening strips when moved towards said second end thereof, said slider comprising:

30 a longitudinal X axis and a transverse Y axis, said transverse Y axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said slider having a vertical Z axis, said vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said transverse Y axis;

35 a housing having a first jaw for engaging said first end stop when said slider is moved to said first end of said fastening strips and said first jaw thereby

preventing removal of said slider from said first end of said fastening strips in said longitudinal X axis.

23. The invention as in claim 22 wherein said first
5 jaw is located at a first end of the slider.

24. The invention as in claim 22 wherein said first
jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.

10 25. The invention as in claim 24 wherein said first
jaw is located at the first end of the slider and said
first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.

15 26. The invention as in claim 23 wherein a second
jaw is located at the first end of the slider.

27. The invention as in claim 23 wherein a third jaw
is located at a second end of the slider.

20 28. The invention as in claim 26 wherein a third jaw
and a fourth jaw are located at a second end of the
slider.

25 29. The invention as in claim 25 wherein the first
end stop extends above the fastening strips.

30. the invention as in claim 22 wherein the first
end stop has a first surface which extends outwardly.

30 31. The invention as in claim 26 wherein the first
end stop has a first surface which extends outwardly.

35 32. The invention as in claim 31 wherein said first
jaw and said second jaw define a first slot, said first
slot has a first width, said first end stop has a second
width, said second width is greater than said first width.

33. The invention as in claim 32 wherein said first surface is a protrusion, said second width includes said protrusion.

5 34. The invention as in claim 32 wherein said first surface is a planar surface, said second width includes said planar surface.

10 35. The invention as in claim 34 wherein said planar surface includes a protrusion, said second width includes said protrusion.

15 36. The invention as in claim 30 wherein said first surface is a protrusion, said first jaw engages said protrusion.

20 37. The invention as in claim 30 wherein said first surface is a planar surface, said first jaw engages said planar surface.

38. The invention as in claim 37 wherein said first surface includes a protrusion, said first jaw engages said protrusion.

25 39. The invention as in claim 22, wherein said first jaw is inwardly biased for engaging said first end stop.

40. A container comprising:
first and second side walls, said first and second
30 side walls including mating first and second fastening
strips respectively, said first and second fastening strips
comprising a closure device arranged to be interlocked over
a predetermined length,

35 a slider adapted to be slidably disposed on said
fastening strips and facilitating the occlusion of said
fastening strips when moved towards a first end thereof
and facilitating the deocclusion of said fastening strips

when moved towards a second end thereof, said fastening strips and said slider having a longitudinal X axis and a transverse Y axis, said transverse Y axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said fastening
5 strips and said slider having a vertical Z axis, said vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said transverse Y axis, a first end stop at said first end, said slider comprising a housing having a first jaw for
10 engaging said first end stop when said slider is moved to said first end of said fastening strips and said first jaw thereby preventing removal of said slider from said first end of said fastening strips in said longitudinal X axis.

15 41. The invention as in claim 40 wherein said first jaw is located at a first end of the slider.

42. The invention as in claim 40 wherein said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.

20 43. The invention as in claim 42 wherein said first jaw is located at the first end of the slider and said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.

25 44. The invention as in claim 41 wherein a second jaw is located at the first end of the slider.

45. The invention as in claim 41 wherein a third jaw is located at a second end of the slider.

30 46. The invention as in claim 44 wherein a third jaw and a fourth jaw are located at a second end of the slider.

35 47. The invention as in claim 43 wherein the first end stop extends above the fastening strips.

48. the invention as in claim 40 wherein the first end stop has a first surface which extends outwardly.

49. The invention as in claim 44 wherein the first 5 end stop has a first surface which extends outwardly.

50. The invention as in claim 49 wherein said first jaw and said second jaw define a first slot, said first slot has a first width, said first end stop has a second 10 width, said second width is greater than said first width.

51. The invention as in claim 50 wherein said first surface is a protrusion, said second width includes said protrusion.

15

52. The invention as in claim 50 wherein said first surface is a planar surface, said second width includes said planar surface.

20

53. The invention as in claim 52 wherein said planar surface includes a protrusion, said second width includes said protrusion.

25

54. The invention as in claim 48 wherein said first surface is a protrusion, said first jaw engages said protrusion.

30

55. The invention as in claim 48 wherein said first surface is a planar surface, said first jaw engages said planar surface.

35

56. The invention as in claim 55 wherein said first surface includes a protrusion, said first jaw engages said protrusion.

57. The invention as in claim 40, wherein said first jaw is inwardly biased for engaging said first end stop.

58. The invention as in claim 40, wherein said fastening strips comprise U-channel closure type fastening strips.

5

59. The invention as in claim 40, wherein said fastening strips comprise arrowhead type fastening strips.

10 60. The invention as in claim 40, wherein said fastening strips comprise profile type fastening strips.

61. A method of using a closure device comprising the steps of:

15 providing a first fastening strip;
providing a second fastening strip;
providing a slider adapted to be slidably disposed on
said fastening strips and facilitating the occlusion of
said fastening strips when moved towards a first end
thereof and facilitating the deocclusion of said fastening
20 strips when moved towards a second end thereof, said
fastening strips and said slider having a longitudinal X
axis and a transverse Y axis, said transverse Y axis being
perpendicular to said longitudinal X axis, said fastening
strips and said slider having a vertical Z axis, said
25 vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal X
axis, said vertical Z axis being perpendicular to said
transverse Y axis, a first end stop at said first end, said
slider comprising a housing having a first jaw for
engaging said first end stop when said slider is moved to
30 said first end of said fastening strips and said first jaw
thereby preventing removal of said slider from said first
end of said fastening strips in said longitudinal X axis;
moving said slider and engaging the first end stop.

35 62. The invention as in claim 61 wherein said first
jaw is located at a first end of the slider.

63. The invention as in claim 61 wherein said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.

64. The invention as in claim 63 wherein said first 5 jaw is located at the first end of the slider and said first jaw is positioned above the fastening strips.

65. The invention as in claim 62 wherein a second jaw is located at the first end of the slider.

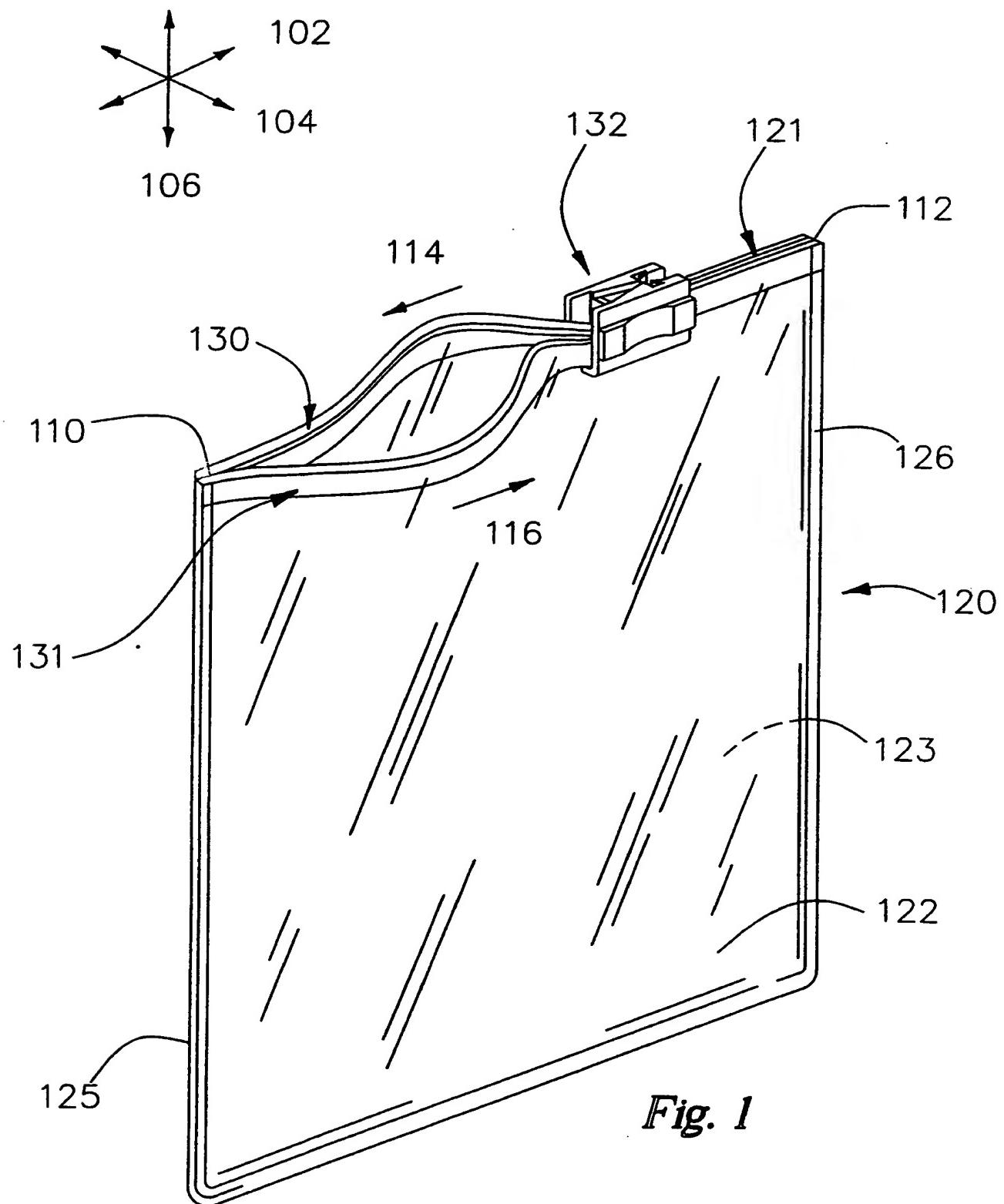
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66. The invention as in claim 62 wherein a third jaw is located at a second end of the slider.

15

67. The invention as in claim 65 wherein a third jaw and a fourth jaw are located at a second end of the slider.

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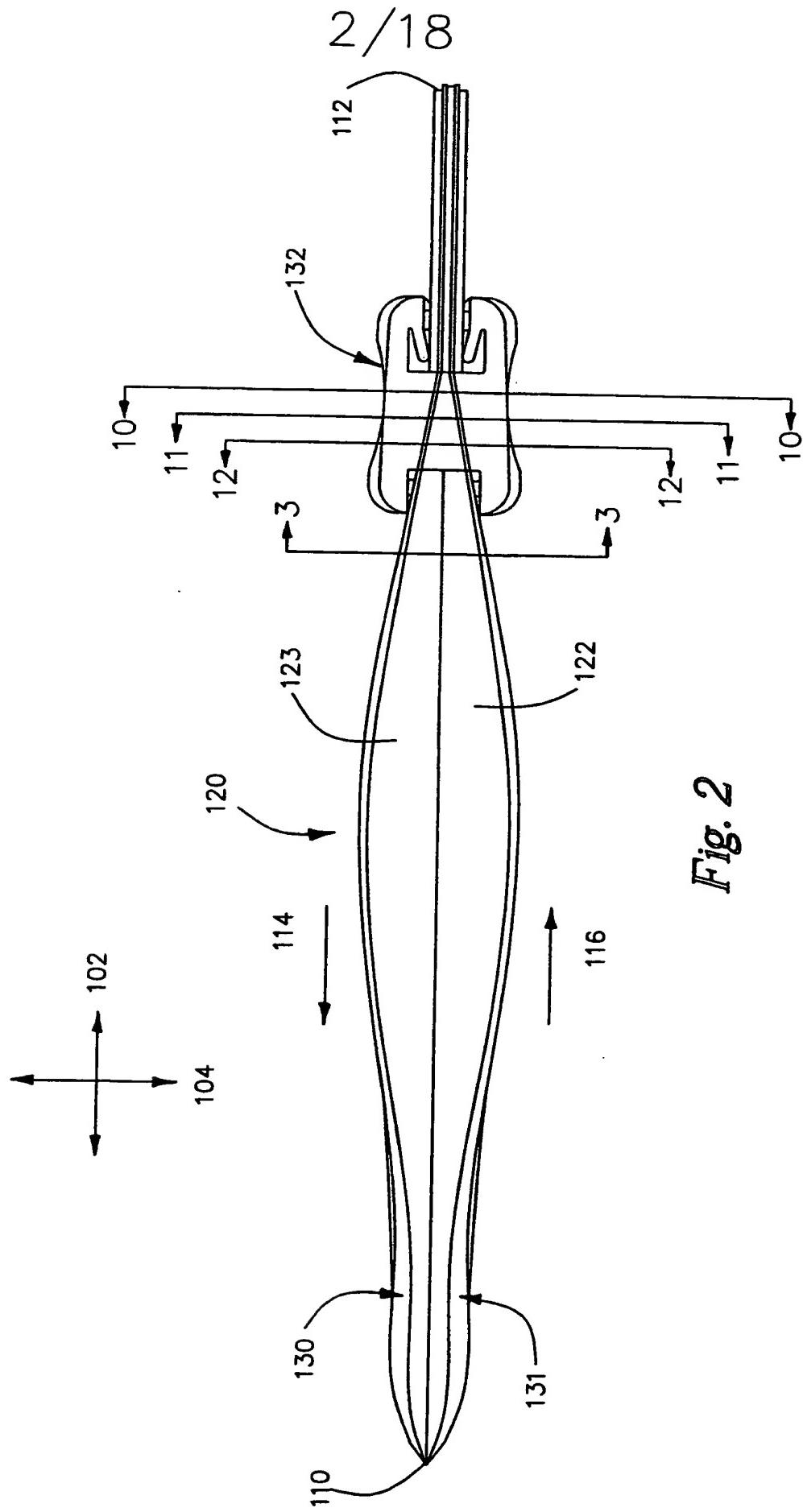


Fig. 2

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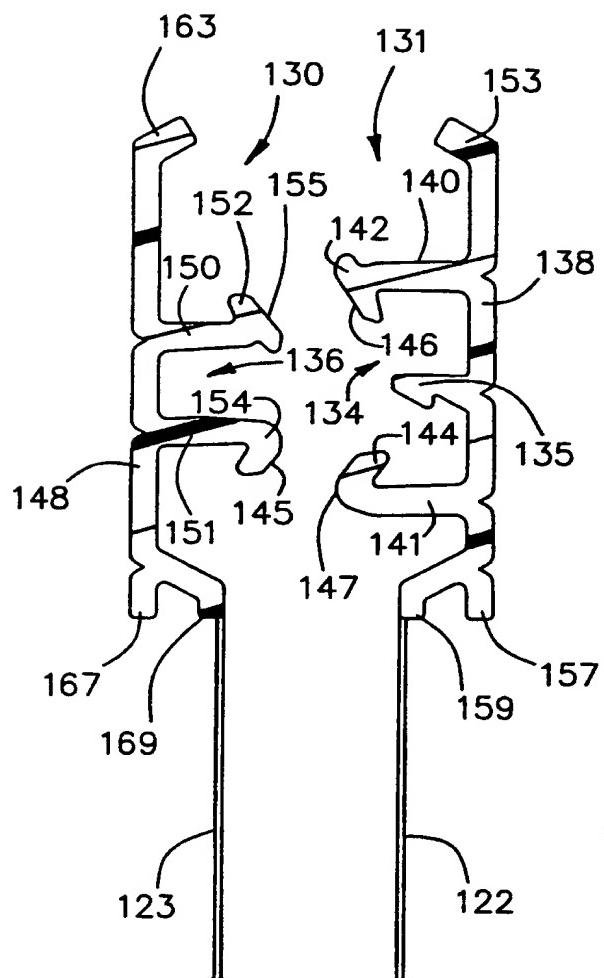


Fig. 3

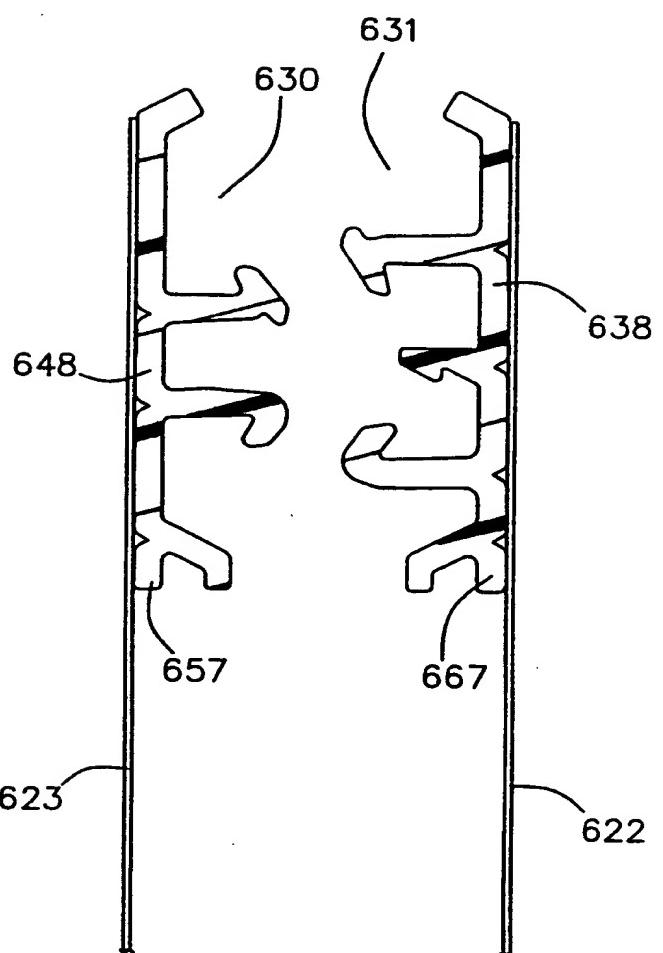


Fig. 4

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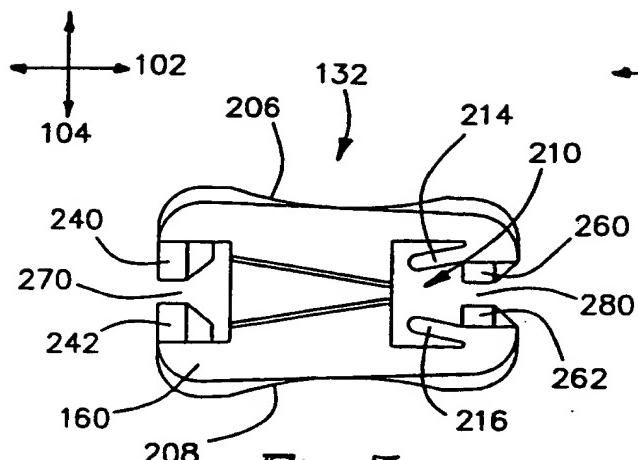


Fig. 5

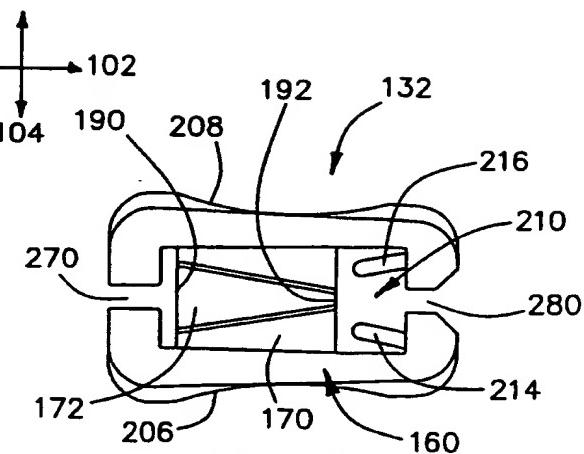


Fig. 6

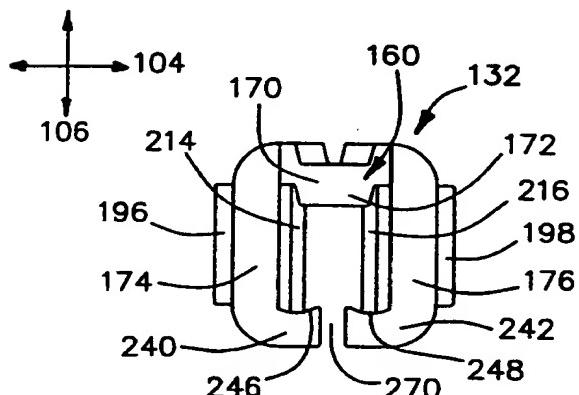


Fig. 7

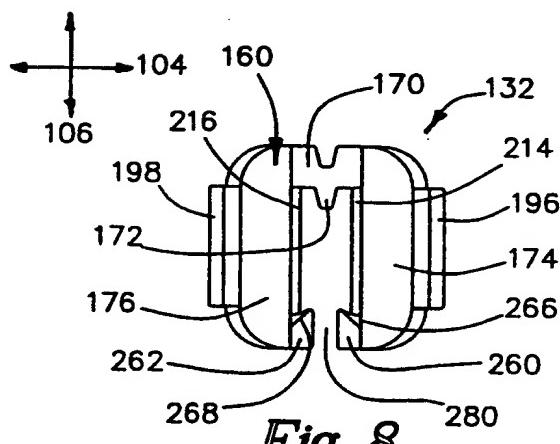


Fig. 8

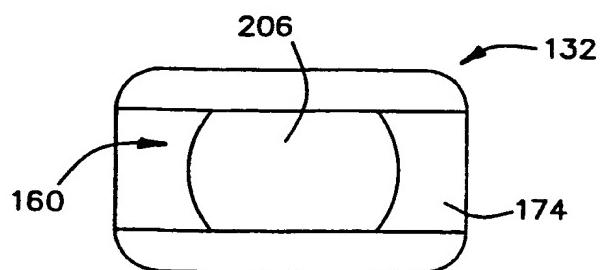


Fig. 9

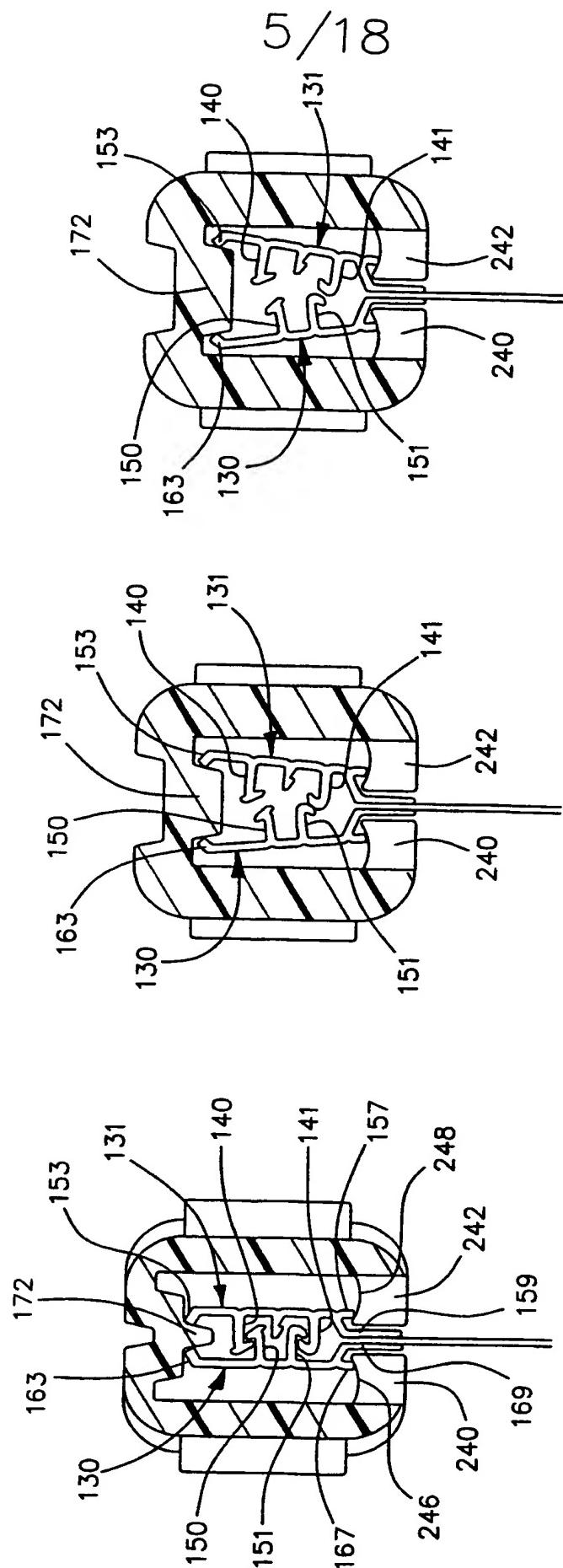


Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

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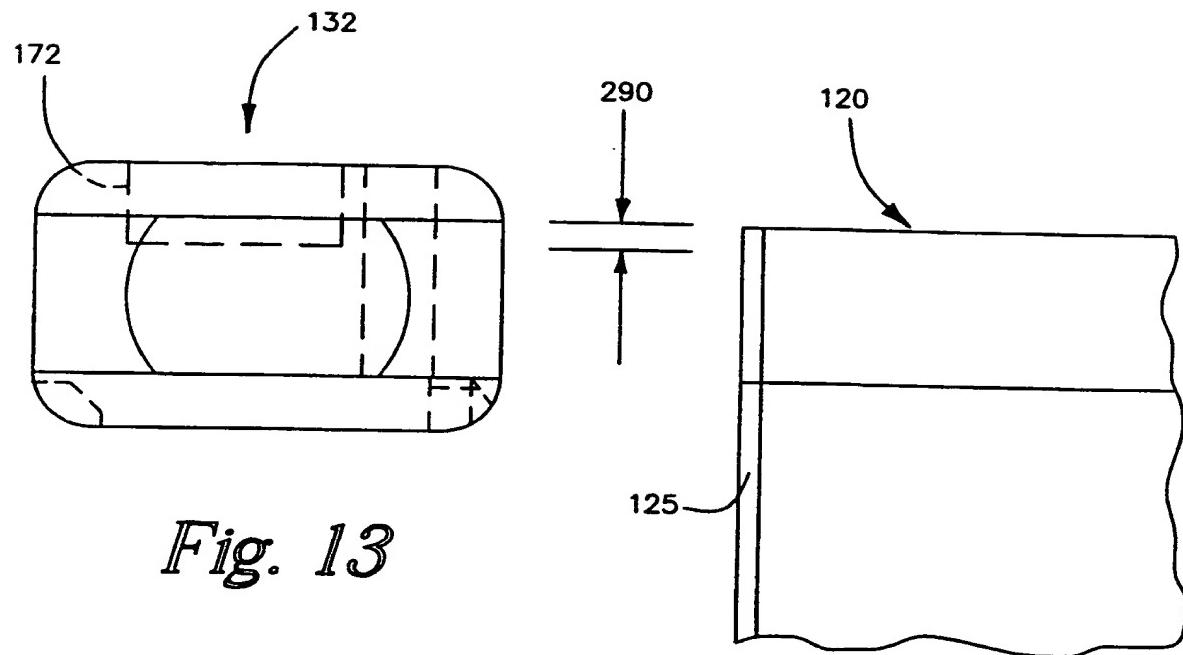


Fig. 13

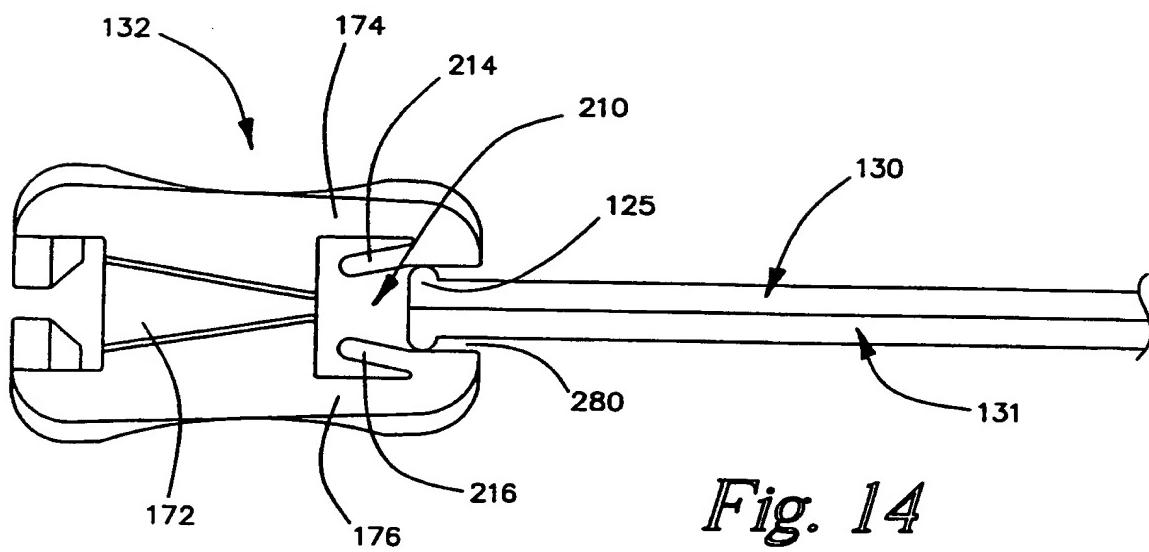
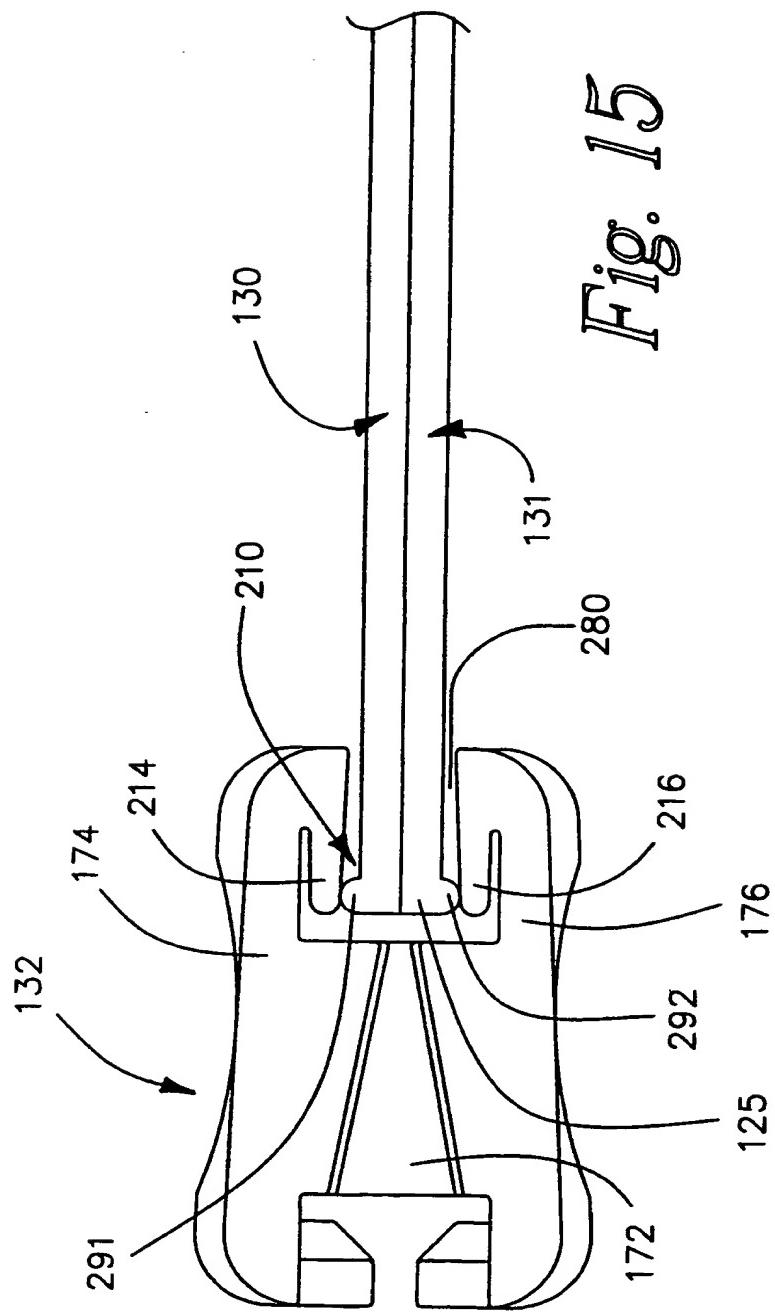


Fig. 14

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Fig. 15



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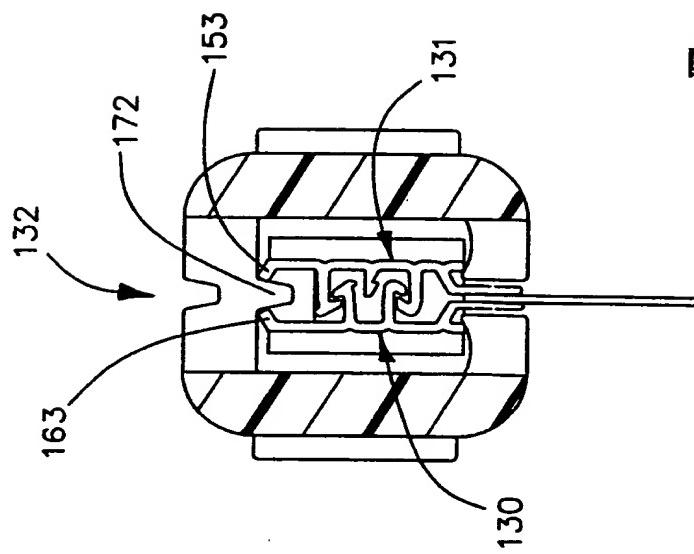


Fig. 16A

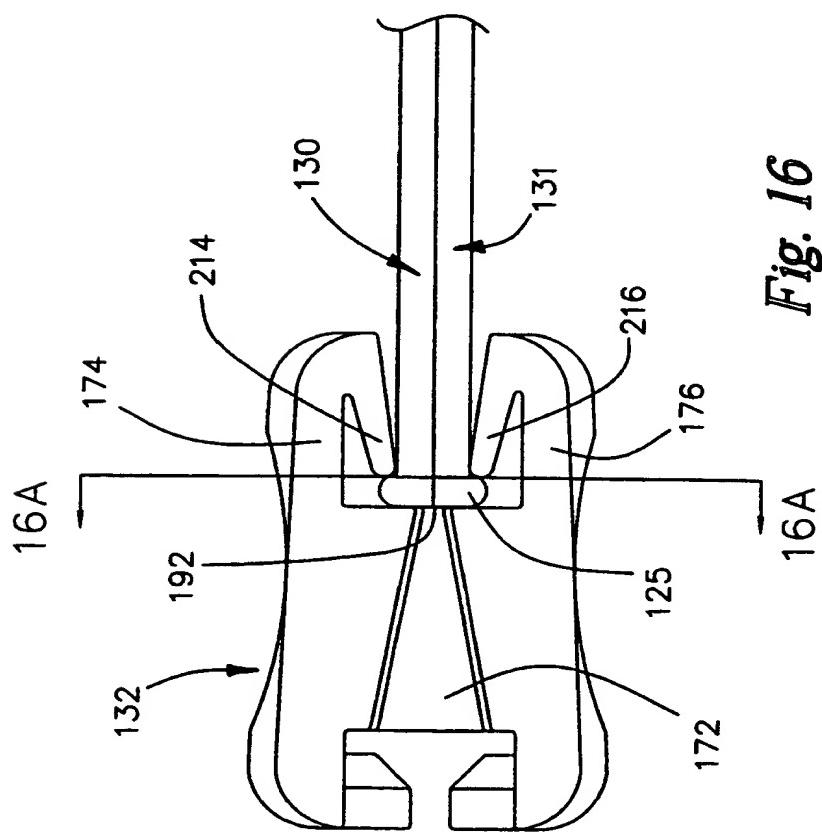


Fig. 16

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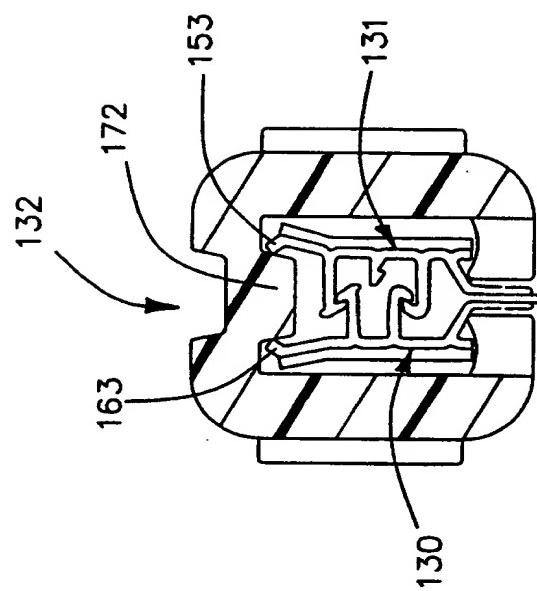


Fig. 17A

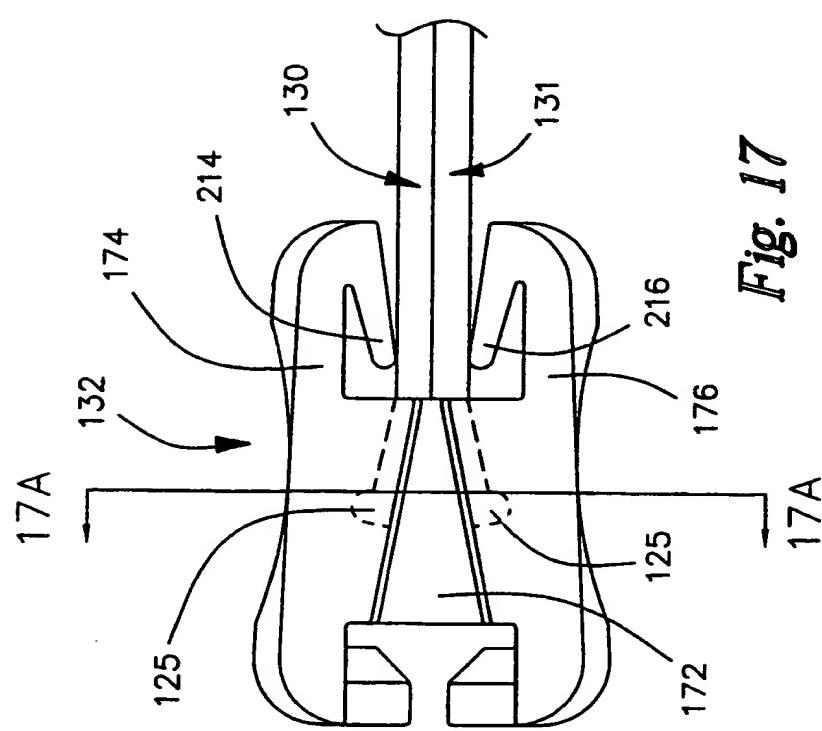


Fig. 17

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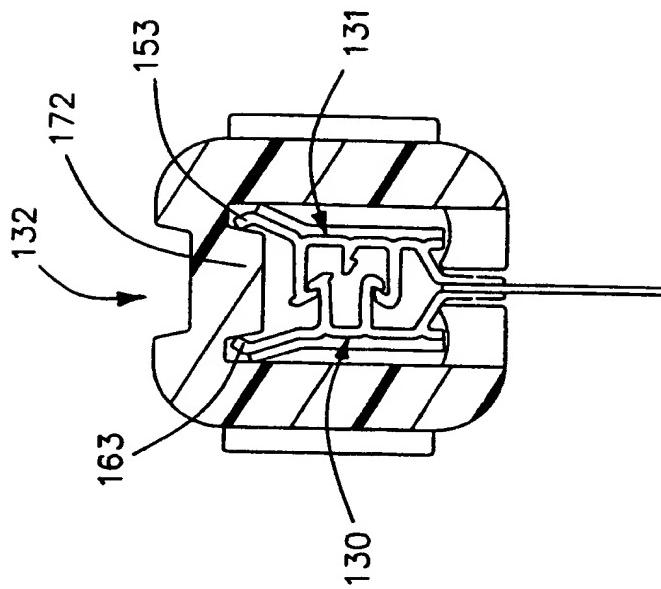


Fig. 18A

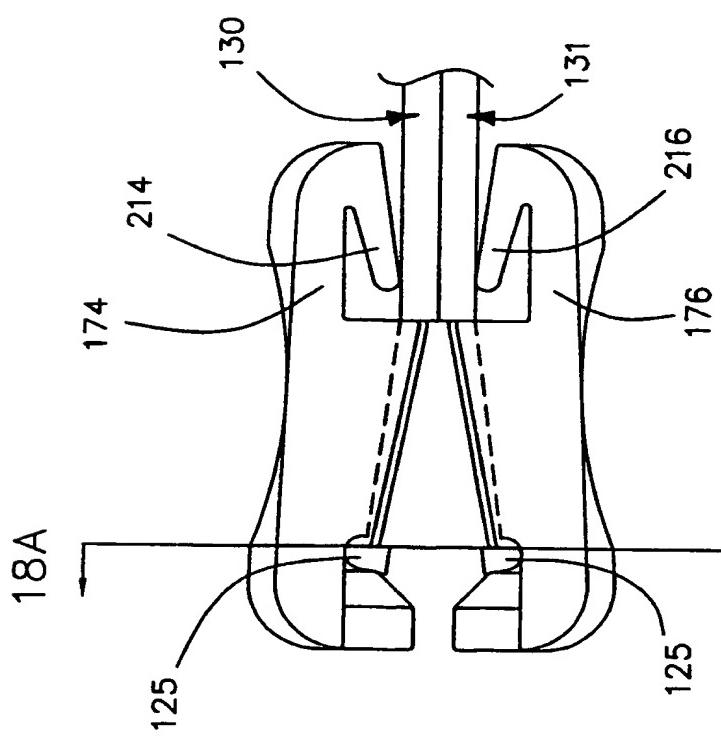


Fig. 18

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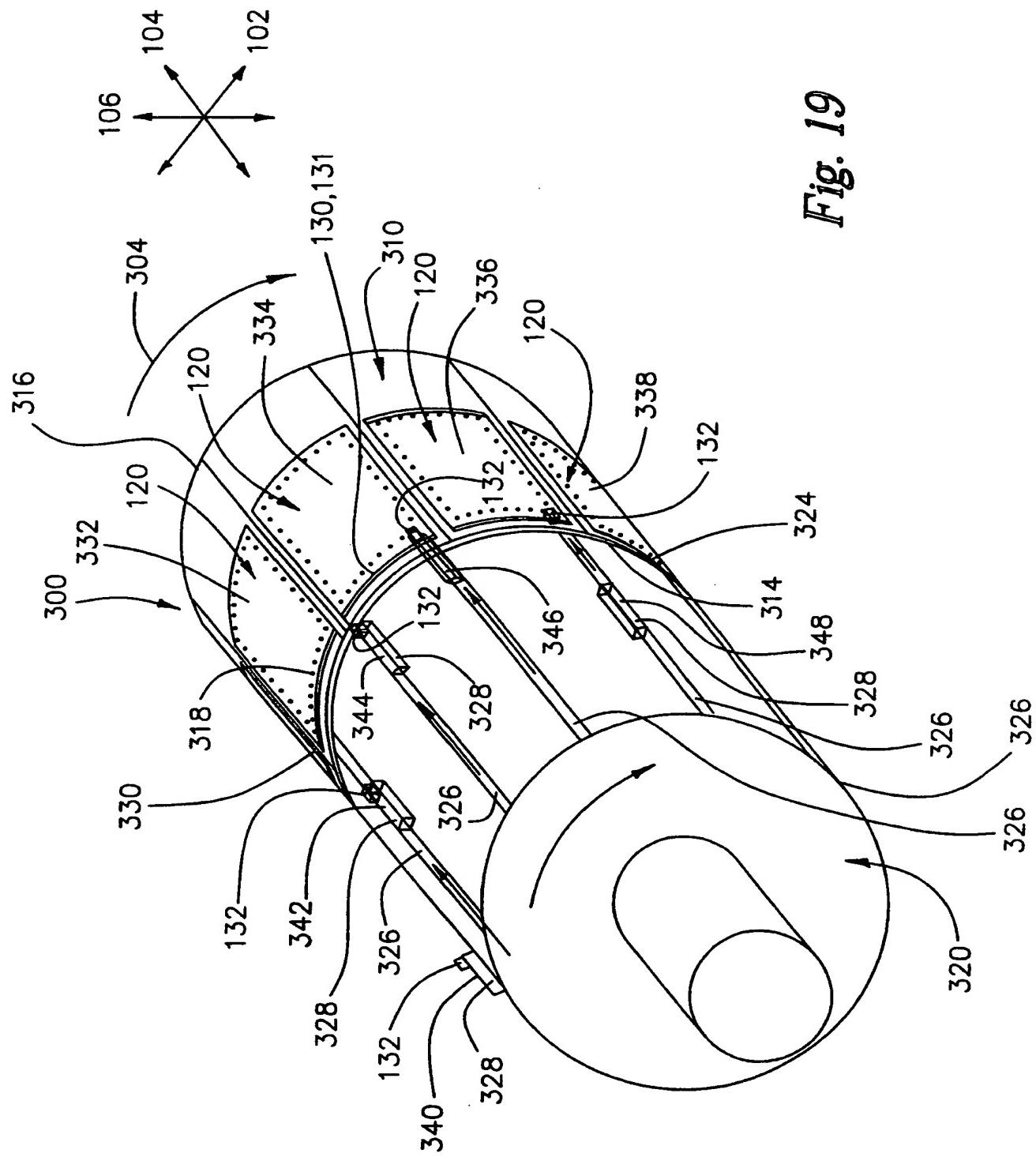
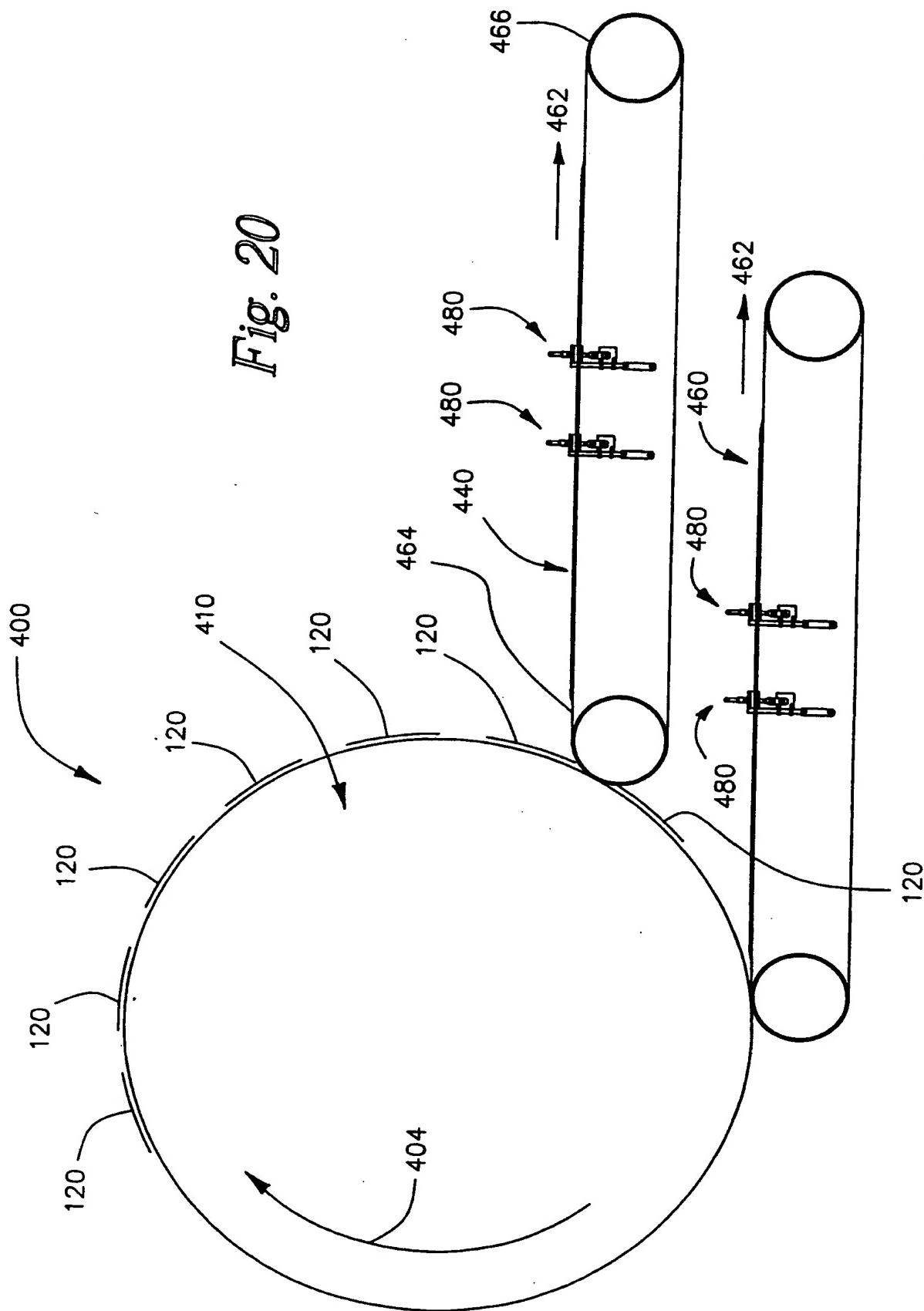


Fig. 19

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Fig. 20



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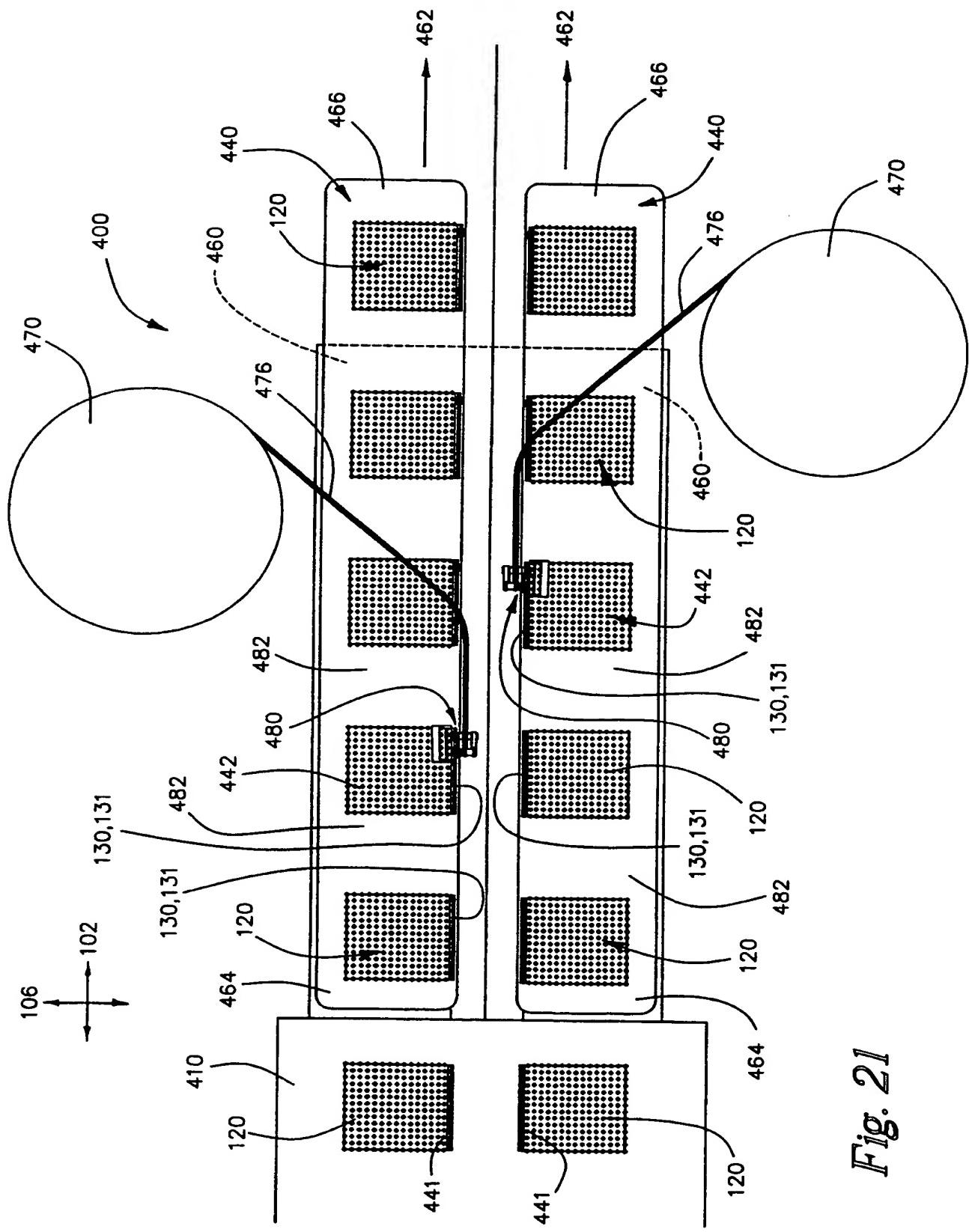


Fig. 21

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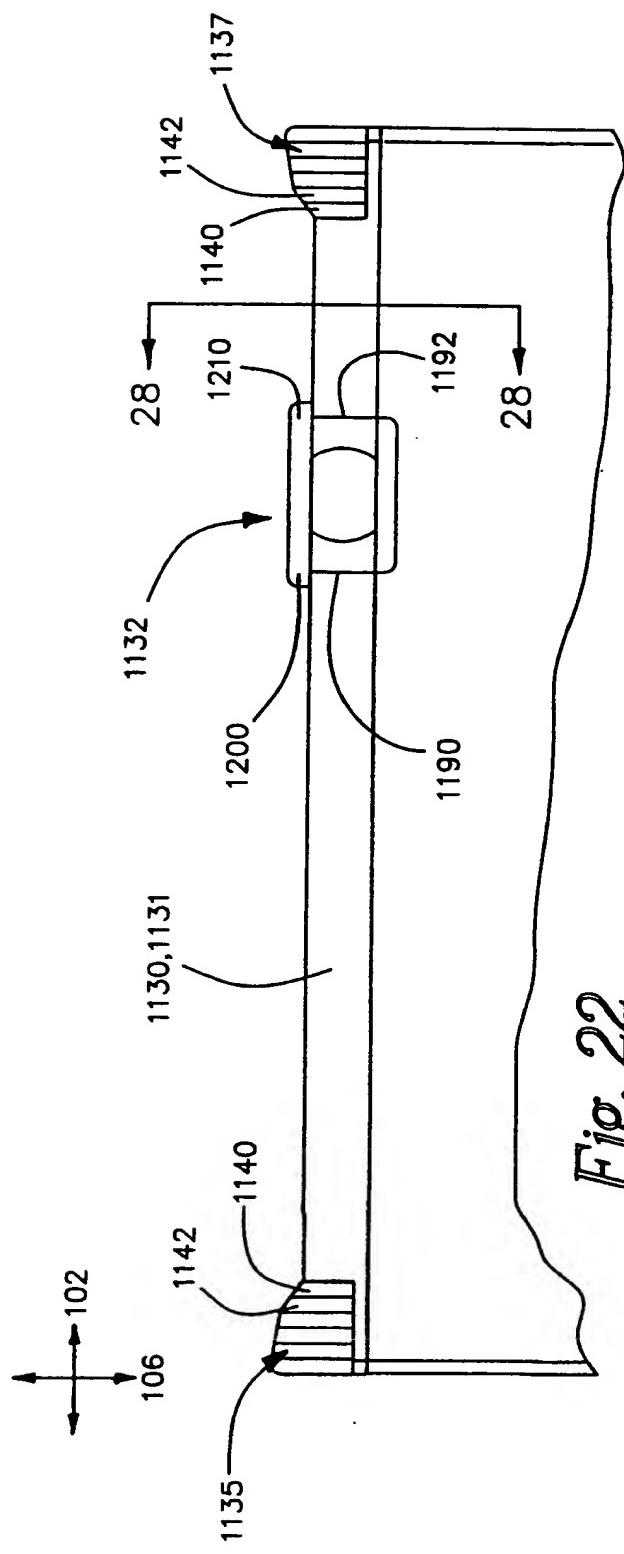


Fig. 22

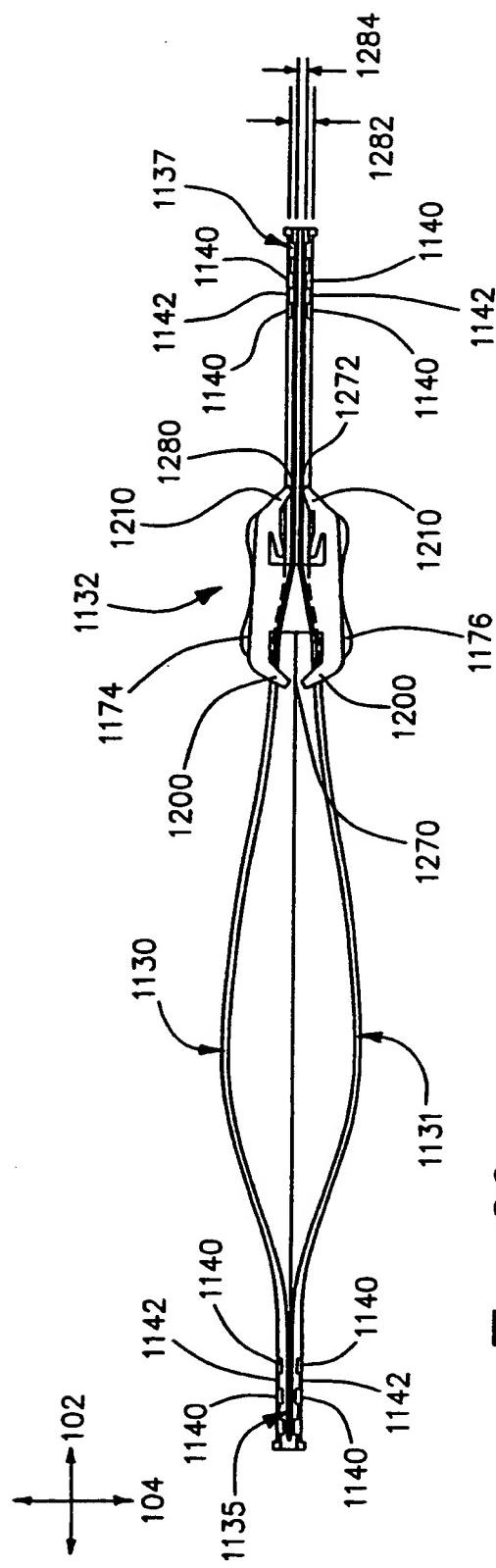


Fig. 23

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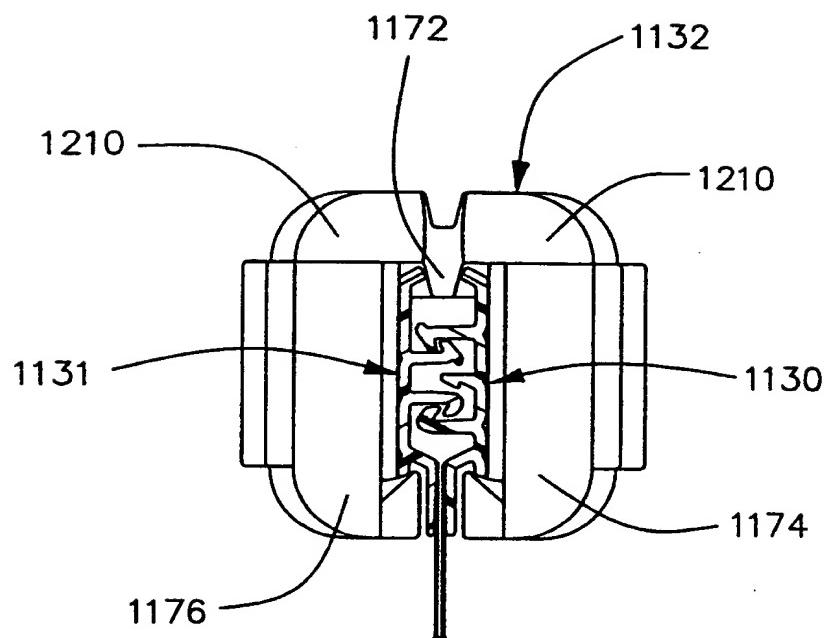


Fig. 24

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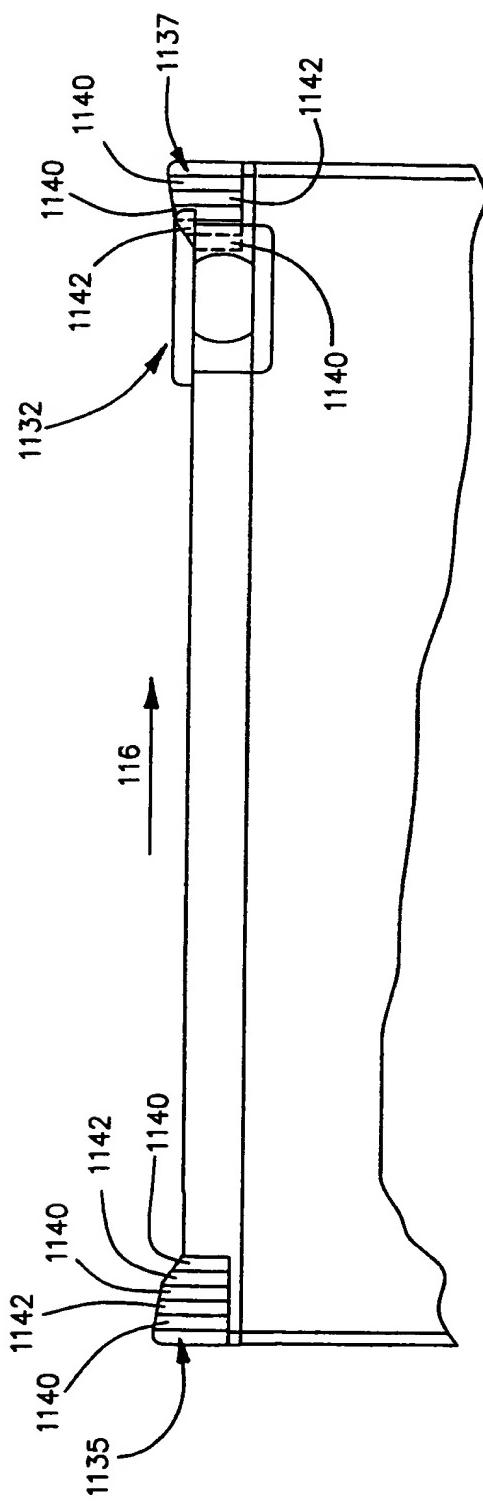


Fig. 25

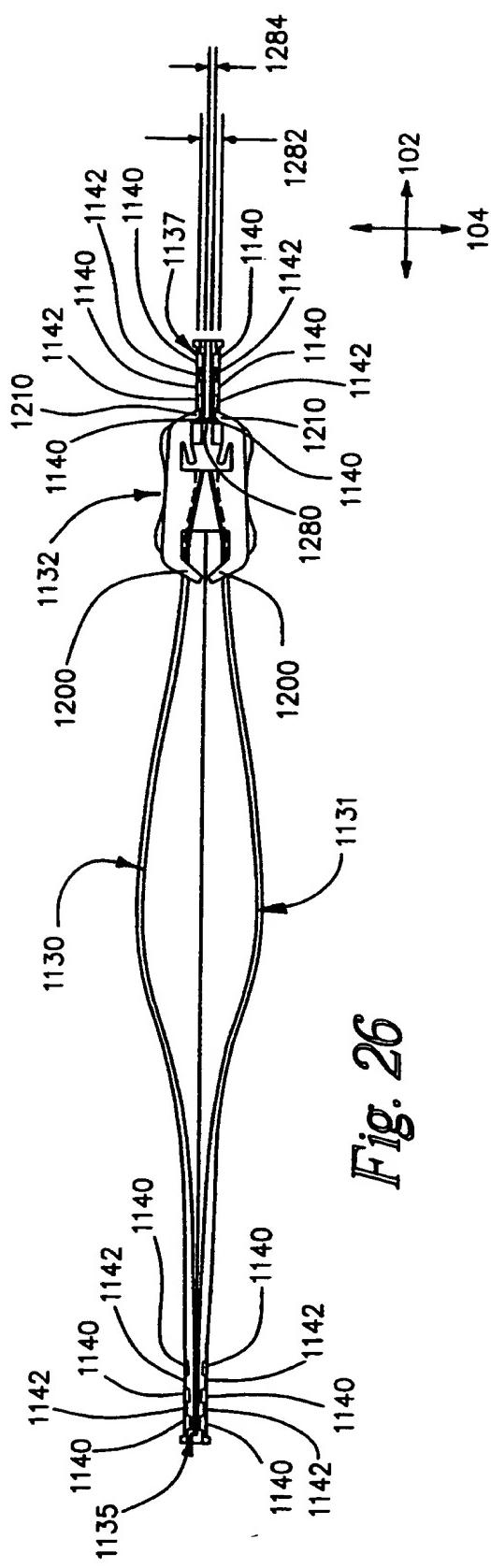


Fig. 26

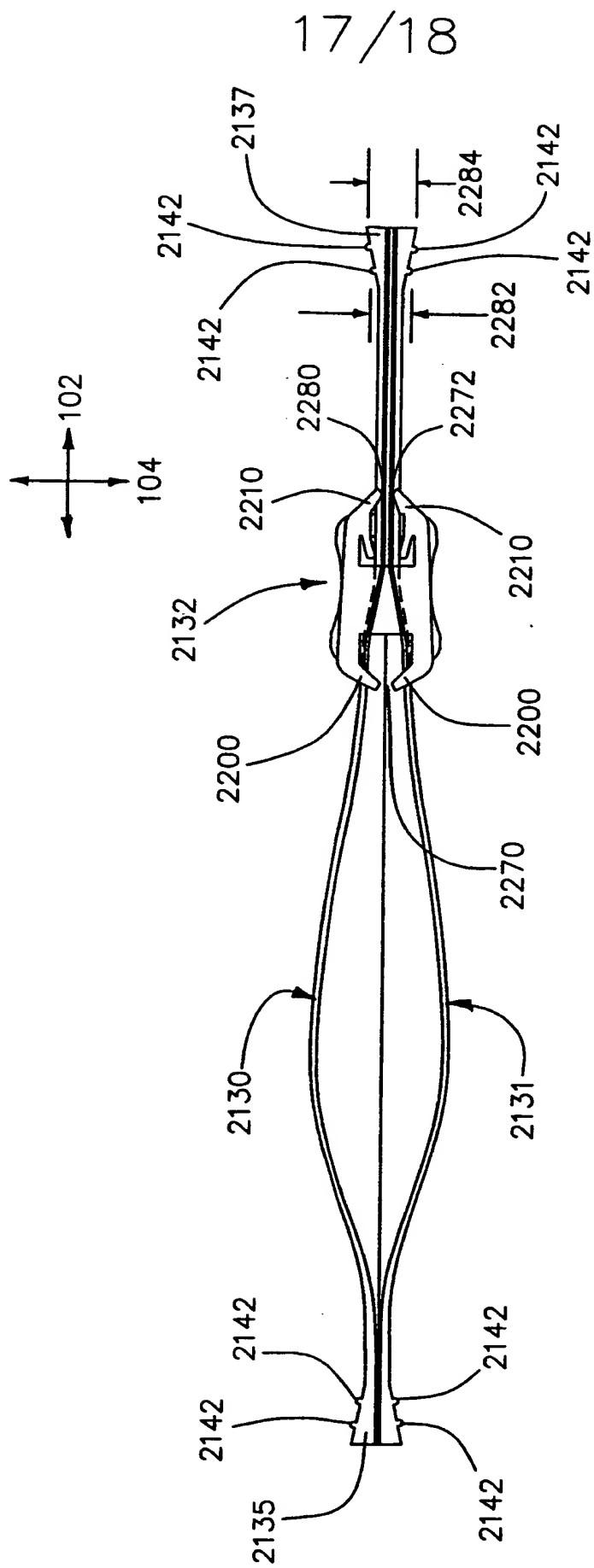
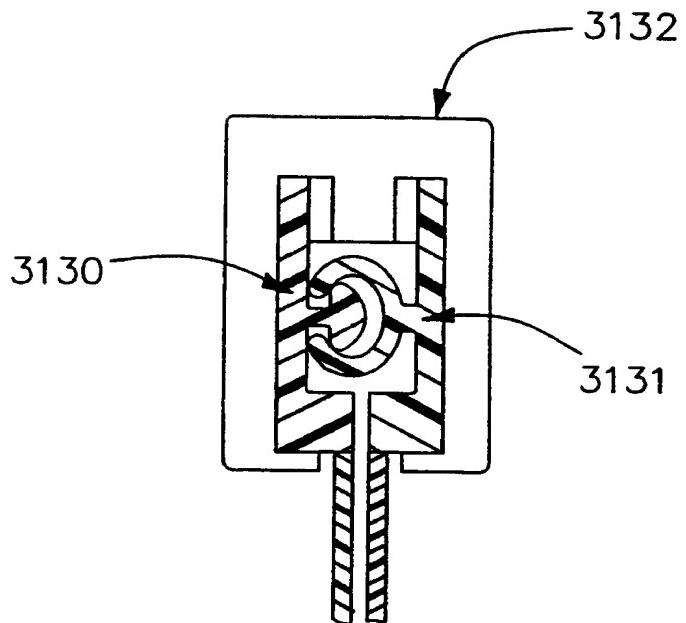
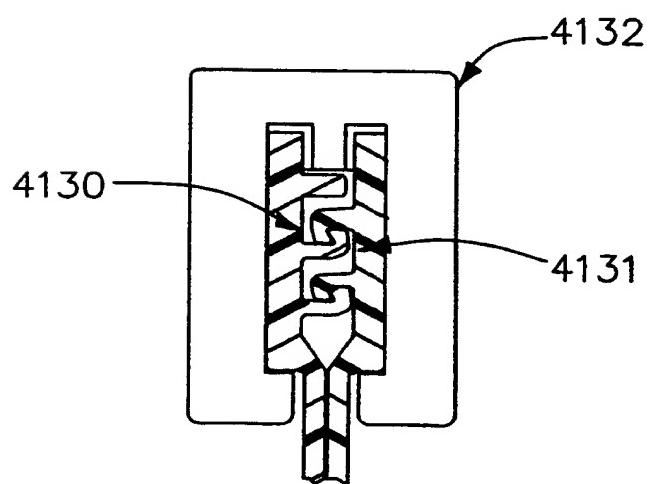


Fig. 27

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*Fig. 28**Fig. 29*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/13245

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A44B 19/16

US CL : 24/30.5R

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 24/30.5R, 399, 400, 576, 587, 418, 435, 436; 383/63-66

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,161,286 A (HERRINGTON, JR. et al) 10 November 1992 (10/11/1992), see figure 7 which shows an end stop 31 with cooperating protrusion and jaw structure upon the slider.	NONE1, 2, 5, 9-19, 21-23, 26, 30-41, 44, 48-58, 60-62, 65
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Y	US 5,301,394 A (RICHARDSON et al) 12 April 1994 (12/04/1994), see figures 1-4 which shows the jaws 21b, 22b engaging the edges of the slot at the top of the fastener.	3, 4, 8, 20, 24, 25, 29, 42, 43, 47, 59, 63, 64
Y		3, 4, 8, 24, 25, 29, 42, 43, 47, 63, 64

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 AUGUST 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

21 OCT 1999

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/13245

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,871,281 A (STOLMEIER et al) 16 February 1999 (16/02/1999), see figure 4 which shows the traditional arrow-head configuration of interengaging elements.	20, 59
A	US 5,189,764 A (HERRINGTON et al) 02 March 1993 (02/03/1993), see figures 1-3.	1-67
A	US 5,442,837 A (MORGAN) 22 August 1995 (22/08/1995), see figures 1 and 3.	1-67